



Puppets' fan base foreign?

Shadow play master Cui Yongping has a collection of 130,000 puppets – far too many for his meager Tongzhou museum.

Not that Beijingers would appreciate them. During the last three decades, 80 percent of his visitors have been foreigners.

Cui is preparing to pack up his puppets for a trip to the US, where he has been invited to show off his cultural treasures at the World Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

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Art for the masses

Print art used to be created for the people. But with many prints being snapped up by collectors, the art may need a new purpose.

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Pamper your skin

It might shock you to learn how many toxic ingredients are in super-market soaps.

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Dream house in Hangzhou

When the two picky women could not find a comfortable and affordable hotel, they built one.



Nation considers allowing foreigners to hunt

By Han Manman

The nation may reopen its forests to foreign hunters for the first time since 2006.

An expert team at the State Forestry Administration (SFA) recently approved seven foreigners to hunt certain Class 2 protected animals in the country.

The applications were submitted by two travel agencies acting on behalf of the hunters, who plan to travel from the US to hunt nine blue sheep and seven Tibetan gazelle at the Dulan International Hunting Ground, Qinghai Province.

Both species are listed as nationally Class 2 protected animals.

Despite the approval, the foreigners are not allowed to hunt in China until they obtain a license from the SFA. They are expected to be licensed before the end of the month.

Wildlife protection laws and regulations in China do not forbid hunting. Official statistics show that, as of the end of 2005, the industry brought in more than \$36 million from 1,000 foreign hunters who took home some 1,300 trophies.

In 2006, the country planned to auction licenses to hunt wild animals. The licenses would only have

been open to foreigners due to China's strict gun control laws. All hunting was suspended after the auction plan was criticized.

"[This year,] four Americans asked us to help them get the approval. They will hunt 10 animals and donate 400 animal specimens they collected during the last 50 years to a museum in Beijing. These specimens include rhinos and elephants," said Wang Wei, general manager of Beijing Zheng'an International Tourism Agency, one of the two travel agencies assisting in the application procedure.



An expert team gave seven foreigners approval to hunt.



Blue sheep are a Class 2 nationally protected animal. CFP Photo

"Trophy hunting is a popular sport," Wang said, noting that the hunters' applications met legal requirements and that the animals

hunted would be used reasonably.

Current wildlife laws prohibit hunting protected animals unless they are used for a special pur-

pose, such as research, education or exhibition.

"It's not just foreigners coming. Over the past few years, a number of Chinese hunters have been going abroad to hunt in Pakistan, North America and even on the African continent," Wang said.

But many people oppose any

move to lift the ban.

Jia Jingbo, dean of the College of Wildlife Resources at Northeast Forestry University, said limited hunting can contribute to wildlife conservation by generating revenue for conservation work.

However, the government must carefully count the number of game animals and place strict quotas on legal hunting, he said.

Biologist Lu Zhi at Peking University said that while hunting may be legal, it is a cruel sport that the government should hesitate to revive.

Lu said that while the potential revenue is important for the government, it must consider public perception of hunters. Residents in Tibetan-inhabited areas in Qinghai Provinces especially dislike hunting.

"Wild animals have a natural age at which they die," said Yan Xun, an SFA official. "Hunters typically choose animals with the large horns, which are the oldest."

He said hunting grounds would be required to submit assessment reports about the foreigners' hunt, including the number of animals slain and the impact of the hunt on the environment.

Public still wary of slower bullet trains

The State Council's decision to slow the operational speed of the nation's high-speed rails on Wednesday was met with a tepid welcome after last month's fatal train collision raised concerns over safety.

The Council ordered safety checks on high-speed railways, as well as slower operational speeds, at an executive meeting presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao in the wake of July's deadly bullet train crash.

The safety of the high-speed railways was questioned after high-speed trains on a line near Wenzhou collided on July 23. The incident was blamed on faulty signaling equipment.

The slower train speeds made headlines across the country, but many people expressed mixed feelings about the decision.

"It is good news, since I would feel safe on a slower train. But I do hope that they (the Railway Ministry) can rule out the hazards so that tragedies like this will not happen again," said a Beijing taxi driver surnamed Li.

"It took Japan 47 years to increase the speed of its Shinkansen railway network, going from 210 kph in 1964 to 300 in 2011. It is therefore impressive, yet worrisome, that China managed to achieve speeds of 350 kph in just seven years," Sun Zhang, a professor at the Railway and Urban Mass Transit Research Institute of Tongji University, said.

However, many doubt that slower speeds will make a difference.

"I don't think it will work, as the actual cause of the collision is unknown. We don't know if the train speed had anything to do

with the collision," a netizen using the screenname "dayushuomanhua" said in a microblog post.

Sheng Guangzu, the Minister of Railways, said that railways with a maximum speed of 350 kph will run at 300 kph, while those with a maximum speed of 250 kph will run at 200 kph. He said that railways whose speeds were increased to 200 kph will be slowed back down to 160 kph.

Ticket fares will be reduced accordingly, he said.

But many still hope to see train speeds increased in the future.

"I hope slowing the trains will be a temporary thing. I think after better safety measures and personnel training are implemented, the train speeds will increase again," a netizen using the screenname "yuanliangqishi" said in a microblog post.

A Thursday editorial in the Beijing News stated, "It is a trend of the times and the aspiration of the people to develop high-speed railways, but what people need are safe trains with affordable fares and quality service."

An investigation into the cause of the crash is still underway. Results are expected to be released in mid-September.

China began operating its bullet trains in 2007. By the end of 2010, 8,358 kilometers of high-speed railways had gone into operation, ranking first in the world in terms of length.

According to the country's railway network development plan, which was revised in 2008, the total length of China's railways is expected to reach 16,000 kilometers by 2020. (Xinhua)

Officials enter the microblog era



蔡奇 @蔡奇

http://t.qq.com/tabtoo

广播2495条 听众5188714人 他收听230人 收录他5588

Cai Qi is the first official to win more than a million followers.

Photo from Cai Qi's QQWeibo

By Yao Weijie

Yunnan's former deputy director of the department of information Wu Hao may have been the country's first official to tweet under his real name, but Cai Qi was the first to win more than a million followers.

Cai, director of Zhejiang's Organization Department, is one of many leaders who are taking the new publishing platform seriously.

Thousands of officials are already using microblogs to publish information, and Party schools are training future officials in their use.

When the bullet train in Wenzhou derailed, Cai forwarded the news on his QQ Weibo. He also published news about the on-site rescue and people's search for their relatives.

The day after the accident, Cai became the first official to openly question the Ministry of Railways when he tweeted, "How can such a disaster be blamed on weather and technol-

ogy? Someone must be responsible. The ministry needs to learn a big lesson - speed can never come before safety."

When microbloggers first began tweeting about the accident, there were numerous inaccurate casualty counts. Top bloggers soon latched onto the tweets by Cai and Zheng Jiwei, the vice governor of Zhejiang Province, which contained much more accurate information.

"Their high-profile tweets and official responses provided a level of communication rarely seen in other major accidents," said Yang Jinling, a commentator on Phoenix TV.

With how many people were tweeting from the scene of the accident, the government could have easily taken a more passive position, Yang said, praising Cai's work.

Cai said more government workers should communicate over the Internet.

"We are living in the information age, and the govern-

ment has to adapt. We can't hide things anymore, so it's best to actively respond. Making information public knowledge is a magic weapon, because when we are open we get people's understanding and support," Cai said.

Many officials, such as Zhu Xiaonong, district mayor of Kecheng, Quzhou, and He Shuifa, a member of the Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of Zhejiang Province, are following Cai's lead.

There are currently 1,200 officials tweeting under their real names: far from enough, given the State employs some 40 million civil servants. As few as 10 percent of all county level officials are tweeting, though 30 percent said they would not rule out maintaining a microblog in the future.

"Most officials hide their identities - they are afraid being more transparent may bring them pressure," said Li Yuxiao, news director at Tencent.

Returning to Beijing

By Yao Weijie

Only two years after they left the big city to find work in second- and third-tier boom towns, many people are returning to Beijing.

Some never found an opportunity; some saw their dreams crushed by bureaucrats.

The rocketing cost of living in those cities also made Beijing's expenses seem more bearable. For many, the move away from Beijing changed their view of the metropolis.



Lisa Liao is trying to get back into the swing of Beijing life.

The 27-year-old woman returned to the capital from Urumqi last month. She is working again as a press agent at her former company and sharing a flat near Tuanjiehu Park with another woman.

Liao was one of the many people who tried to escape from Beijing two years ago, when housing prices and residence discrimination had office workers leaving in droves.

Before her great escape, Liao worked from 5 am to 11 pm at Beijing Gejiugewei Advertising at Sanlitun. She didn't have a house, a car or a boyfriend.

"That life was too tiring," Liao said. "One time when I called my mom, I couldn't talk. I just had tears streaming down my face. That's when I decided that Beijing was not for me." A month later, Liao quit her job and boarded a train for Xinjiang.

But Liao did not find happiness in her hometown.

She had a home, a car and an easy job, but her days were boring. Public relations work in Urumqi was slow and thankless: the company in Urumqi earned only a few thousand yuan for each job, compared to hundreds of thousands in Beijing.

"I spent three months doing nothing. Sometimes I played QQ's farming game the entire day. The pace of life was just so different," Lisa said.

Her pay also took a hit, even though the prices of many commodities were even more expensive than in Beijing. "My salary fell to 2,000 yuan per month, but the price of two cucumbers was the same as one in Beijing," she said.

In spite of the tense work and living environment, big cities like Beijing offer many advantages.

Beijing has comparatively fair competition thanks to a developed commercial environment



Leaving Beijing is a difficult decision for young workers – it represents the end of their dreams.

Photo by Liu Chenyu

and experienced courts. People have a better chance of finding a job through their own ability instead of through personal connections, and hard work is often rewarded by a raise.

People are also more respectful of individuals: women who do not marry before 25 are not seen as strangers, gays are mostly tolerated and people are free to decide how they want to live.

In many small cities, such freedom is a dream.

Duan Wen, a 24-year-old young man, has also returned to Beijing after leaving in 2009. His departure was prompted by an uncle who asked him, if you could drive a BMW in your hometown, why would you drive Xiali in Beijing?

"Today, I would rather drive a Xiali in Beijing than a BMW in my hometown," Duan said.

As a graduate of Renmin University, Duan dreamed of achieving by his own ability. When he found his father had paved the way for him to have an easy life, he decided to leave his hometown rather than rely on his family's connections.

"When I came back to my hometown in Chenzhou, Hunan Province, I took the civil service exam and passed easily. I worked about a half year, but was having a terrible time adapting to the bureaucracy," Duan said. "That's when a coworker told me that the only reason I got the position was because my father pulled some strings."

"My father was angry: he didn't understand me. I think it's important to find what you want, be it a peaceful life, a beautiful life or lots of money. What I want is a fulfilling job, and I only found that in Beijing," Duan said.

Wang Lin, a 28-year-old teacher, was driven back to Beijing when people in his hometown said it was "humiliating for someone with a foreign master's degree to return to such a small city."

Yuan Yuan, 24-year-old woman, returned to Beijing after being rejected in her hometown's civil service exam because her father wasn't a sitting government official.

Having seen their options in second- and third-tier cities dry up, many young people are packing up

and giving Beijing a second chance.

"It's about industrial layout, industry structure and industry adjustment all over the country. If they would fix some of the problems in these smaller cities, then everyone leaving Beijing would be happy," said Xiaojinbo, a reporter for *People's Daily Online*.

In Beijing, Liao has returned to her usual life. She wakes up at 6 am, jams herself onto a crowded bus and heads to work for another busy day. At 10 pm, she begins the trek home. Her boss is once again praising her with words instead of raises.

For the most part, Beijing hasn't changed. The only new thing is that everyone in her office is microblogging – a trend that has yet to catch on back home in Urumqi.

Her first post was, "Back from Urumqi. I'm lonely and bored. Can anyone help me find a boyfriend?"

Ten days later, she wrote again, "I want to buy beautiful skirts, beautiful shoes and books, but I don't have money for next month's rent."

Duan is living in his friends' house and sending out his resume every day. He plans to rent his own place as soon as he finds a job – something that pays at least 8,000 yuan per month.

"I don't think this wage is higher than I deserve," he said.

"These people can't fit into the big city, but they can't go home either. It's not their own problem, but a problem of the times," Xiao said.

"I have lived in Beijing for eight years since graduating from high school. Now that I have seen the prosperous outside world, I can't get used to the slow pace of life," Wang said.

"I have asked my mother a thousand times, if you wanted me to stay in hometown, why did you send me to Beijing?" Wang said. "She's never had an answer."

Artist finds audience for shadow puppets abroad



Wang teaches a Japanese girl to control shadow puppets.

By Yao Weijie

Cui Yongping and his wife Wang Shuqin, the curators of Chinese Shadow-Play Art Museum, have been recently invited by the World Children's Museum of Indianapolis to display their pieces.

The exhibition area would be many times larger than their current one in China, creating room for Cui's collection of 130,000 puppets.

Most visitors to the Shadow-Play Art Museum are foreigners, and the 65-year-old Cui sees the invitation as an opportunity to take his collection directly to his top audience.

The Shadow-Play Art Museum at Majuqiao, Tongzhou District seems pitiful at first glance. The tiny museum consists of only seven rooms crammed into a converted home.

But packed into that small space are among the finest shadow puppets from the Ming and Qing dynasties, as well as many from the Republican era.

The cast includes elaborately outfitted brides, handsome grooms, warriors and courtiers, dragons, birds, frogs, leopards, horses and a ghost or two, for those plays that call for a man being sawn in half in one of the 18 levels of Diyu, the Chinese Hell.

Some puppets are Cui's own creations, but many more have been collected from all over the world.

Cui began training as a puppeteer and puppet maker more than 50 years ago. He met his wife Wang in 1961 at the workshop of Beijing Shadow Play Troupe, then one of the city's top theaters.

Cui and Wang supported each other in their passion, and Cui eventually became head of the theater.

Being a shadow puppeteer requires great skill. Performers must have fantastic dexterity to move their puppets behind an illuminated backdrop. Experienced puppeteers must be able to act, sing and play musical instruments.

Each puppet takes weeks to cut and paint. Most are made from ox or donkey hide that has been sliced and thinned down to a translucent layer.

In 1983, Cui and Wang went on a 45-city tour, performing in Germany, Austria, France and Italy. During his presentation in Germany, he was mocked by a professor who said Chinese shadow puppetry was a second-rate art without a museum.

"I was very upset, and that was when I decided to build a Chinese [shadow puppet] museum," Cui said.

The plan went anything but smooth. In 1993, Cui suffered a stroke and was paralyzed. He spent the next three years in a coma.

"We had no money for my treatment, let alone for founding a museum," he said. When he recovered, Cui and Wang began selling popsicles for the next



Cui is giving a shadow puppet performance behind an illuminated backdrop

CFP Photo

seven years to eke out a living.

In 2004, they decided to try opening their museum for a second time.

"Although we opened a museum, few Chinese people came to see it. Eighty percent of our visitors were foreigners," Wang said.

It was after several American reporters came to interview Cui about his museum that World Children's Museum sent out its invitation.

But in spite of his museum's humble appearance, Cui's dedication to the art has touched many people around the world.

Louise Tomei, an 80-year-old German teacher, studied with Cui for more than 30 years, taking the art back to her country to found the Hamburg Puppet Shadow Play Federation [Ed: Cannot find online. Please check the name.].

"When my husband was sick, [Tomei] came to China to see

him and brought medicine and money with her," Wang said.

A Japanese professor, Kusama Ryo, also studied with Cui, writing letters to him for the last 30 years and offering financial support to the museum.

A Canadian writer, Grant Hayter Menzies, author of *Through the Red Gate*, worked with Cui to understand the life and legacy of Pauline Benton, the American who became the first female performer of shadow plays in North America.

It's unsurprising then that his arrival in the US received a warm welcome.

"Many primary schools and colleges invited us to perform shadow plays," Wang said. "It was disorienting for me. Foreigners would travel such a distance to learn about shadow plays while the Chinese people in our community didn't even know we existed."

Cui suspects it all boils down

to money: performing shadow plays today is a labor of love and no way to make a living.

The closest he came to generating community interest at home was when a group of students from Communication University of China rented a home near the museum to learn shadow puppetry.

"They were good children: they cleaned, cooked and planted vegetables for me. But after a week of learning, they never came back again," Cui said.

"Chinese people always think shadow puppetry is interesting, but no one is willing to devote himself to the art."

But he has passed on some of his skills to his family: a son in the US, a Japanese daughter-in-law, a Canadian daughter and a German son-in-law. While their skill pales in comparison to their father's, they have helped Cui connect with North Americans who are interested in shadow play art.

"My son has a restaurant in New York, so he gets to see a lot of famous people and introduce them to shadow puppetry," he said.

When visiting relatives

abroad, they often put on impromptu performances to see who in the area has an interest in shadow plays.

"I tell them that shadow plays are the Chinese ancestor of the cartoon," Cui said. "That's the real reason I want to hold an exhibition at the World Children's Museum: if more people learn shadow puppetry – I don't care about their nationality – then the art won't die with me."

The art has a history of more than 3,000 years: more than 2,700 years before anyone thought of Peking Opera. Still, it has fallen out of popularity.

"Chinese people no longer learn about the things their ancestors did. What's popular now is karaoke, McDonald's and pop songs," Cui said.

"Americans are smart: they appreciate me. I would rather take the art to the United States, where people can appreciate 2,000 years of history."

The exhibition is expected to open in early 2012, where it will be part of the museum's China series. Other exhibits will focus on terracotta warriors and Chinese calligraphy.

Brand hijacking?

Fake Apple and Ikea copycats in Kunming cause concern

The exact same glowing apple-shaped logos, enthusiastic employees in blue T-shirts and beautiful gadgets on display for customers to play with – but the store in Kunming, Yunnan Province wasn't authorized by Steve Jobs.

During the past month, thousands of news outlets home and abroad picked up the Kunming story, spreading shock about what was called "the ultimate copycat."

The fake store was so real that the employees were also duped.

Soon after, a lookalike store Ikea store popped up in Kunming as well, AFP reported. Only this time, the store had its own name: 11 Furniture.

The store copied Ikea's blue and yellow color scheme, mock-up rooms, miniature pencils and beloved rocking chair designs. It even has a cafeteria that serves Chinese dishes and snacks.

Since, more reports of shanzai – fake or copycat – stores have proliferated. This week, the Associate Press, Reuters, *Financial Times* and hundreds of others reported on the phenomenon, saying that shanzai stores have threatened many Western brands.



Even workers at Kunming's fake Apple store believed they worked for Steve Jobs.
Silent/IC Photo

The third eye Counterfeit, copycat and intellectual property in China

By Huang Daohen

While the recent media frenzy about copycat stores in China has led people to think the Chinese don't care about intellectual property (IP), Zhao Xiao, an economist and IP expert, said that's not true.

Zhao said it indicates the Chinese do recognize the value of IP. "That is why they started to copy whatever they are legally or practically able to copy," he said.

For instance, legally, a company is able to register its trademark of color and decoration. But if Ikea didn't do so, then it is legal for the other company to use that same design in its own trademark.

"For businessmen, there is no reason not to copy if it will bring you some advantages in

the market," Zhao said, adding that one needs to make a distinction between a clear counterfeit and a "shanzai."

While fake products and counterfeits violate intellectual property rights, Zhao said a successful copycat can evolve its own business model.

This explains why fake Apple stores were shut down after exposure, but many others, such as 11 Furniture, will be allowed to stay open. "Because they didn't violate existing copyright laws," Zhao said.

Zhao said there are legal loopholes. Under current law, the country doesn't allow retail services like stores or supermarkets to be trademarked.

Therefore, such trademark owners have to enforce their rights by other means, like the

Anti-Unfair Competition law, which is more complicated and requires certain criteria.

But Zhao said that doesn't mean China is a free-for-all of intellectual-property violations. There are cases where foreign brands have won suits against IP violation. The fake Apple store was shut down after the media firestorm, and in 2006, Starbucks won a suit against Xingbake Coffee for having too similar a logo and name.

For the customers, qualified copycats are a boon. "Because they know the Ikea products are all made in China, so when a copycat is selling exactly the same products with a much lower price, that's good news," Zhao said.

But Zhao said the country still needs original ideas to succeed.

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Businesses head UAE

Emirates top draw for China's small- and medium-size firms

Faced with rising costs and cash shortages, many small and medium enterprises chose to tighten their belts and stay thrifty.

A few don't.

The Nation recently ran this report about Chinese entrepreneurs seeking their fortunes abroad in the United Arab Emirates.



DragonMart, the Dubai emporium, is the top trading hub for Chinese goods outside the mainland.
Wu Wangsheng/CFP Photo

Shen Jian owns a factory near Shanghai that makes children's play equipment. Like many Chinese manufacturers, his business model is predicated on exporting goods to foreign countries.

His biggest market: DragonMart, the Dubai emporium, which has developed into the top trading hub for Chinese goods outside the mainland.

The entrepreneur, 30, is one of hundreds of Chinese nationals who have opened small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Emirates in recent years.

The Consulate-General of China in Dubai estimates there are some 3,500 Chinese-owned companies operating in the UAE, mainly in Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

"We have witnessed rapid growth of Chinese small- and medium-sized companies in UAE in the past few years, especially since 2002 when DragonMart opened and many private, small- and medium-sized companies were introduced to the UAE market," says Zhang Baojun, secretary general of the Chinese Business Council in the UAE.

An economics graduate, Shen moved to the UAE six years ago after stumbling upon a website about Dubai.

"It said many people come here. It's a very international place. I thought it was maybe a good opportunity to open my business," he says.

He worked first as a salesman in a shop in DragonMart to gain experience and gauge the market before opening his own store, HOCC Amusement Equipment, in the same center three

years ago.

"We sell more in China, but the profit is higher here. We need the two markets. If we only had the Chinese business it would be very difficult to hold on because there is so much competition."

Many Chinese come to the UAE because it is easy to set up a business here – but it is equally easy to lose money, he says.

"If you do it the right way you can make money easily but if you go wrong you can lose a lot easily. Many people come, lose money and go back," he says.

Indeed, a number of Chinese companies shut down during the global downturn, Zhang says.

"We have no specific numbers, [but] yes, some companies were affected by the recession and shut down their office in UAE," he says.

Shen is doing relatively well, and recently landed a big order in Saudi Arabia, but has more competition than when he first arrived.

"It was a good profit when I first started, but now the situation is many people are coming and we are fighting with prices. I am making higher quality [goods to compete], but here customers do not look to China for quality. They look for price."

DragonMart has a bewildering array of shops, including stores solely dedicated to selling fish tanks, spare parts for cars and even shelves.

David Zhang, the executive of client affairs at Dragon Mart, says the mall contains more than 3,000 shops.

"They sell mainly in Dubai, but there are a lot of wholesalers

that sell to neighboring countries such as Oman, Qatar, Iraq, Iran and Saudi Arabia."

Steffen Hertog, a lecturer at the London School of Economics, says Chinese enterprises and micro-entrepreneurs are active in many of the world's emerging markets, including difficult environments such as Algeria and sub-Saharan African states.

"So it's no surprise that they would also emerge in the UAE as the trade and logistics hub of GCC business. Overseas Chinese are very entrepreneurial, and once they reach a critical mass, their communities become almost self-sustaining," he says.

The opening of DragonMart led to an influx of Chinese entrepreneurs, but events such as the annual China Commodities Fair and China Sourcing Fair have lured many more to the Emirates.

Chinese entrepreneurs are involved in a range of industries in the UAE, Zhang says.

"Members of the Chinese Business Council are from different industries ranging from energy development, construction and machinery, telecommunications, textiles and garments, furniture, exhibition and conference organization, restaurants and travel services," he says.

For some shop owners in DragonMart, the decision to leave China to set up a business in the UAE may have made economic sense, but it came with a sacrifice.

"My baby and wife are in China. Maybe they will move here in two years. It's a very difficult choice to leave them. I want to go home and see my wife and baby, but I am

here for business. This is my life," says Wang Yu, 29, who owns the jewelry shop Thomas and Ivy and a wholesale business. He has been in the country for six years.

Wang worked at a construction site in Ajman when he first arrived, but lost his job after the onset of the 2008 banking crisis. That was when he decided to open a business, taking advantage of a fall in rental costs.

"I think there is a better business environment in Dubai than in China. If you want to open a shop in China you have to go to this department and that department and another. It is very difficult. Here it is easy, only rent," he says.

He plans to return to China eventually, but thinks he may stay for another 10 years.

"I like it here. Not only because of money, but because it is interesting. It's tax free and the people are friendly."

Wang's wholesale business is doing well but, like many other shops at the moment, the retail side has been slower.

It is a lament heard elsewhere in DragonMart.

Wei Quan Chen, 25, who manages his brother's business, Ocean Fly Sports, agrees but says there is also more competition in China.

He wants to start a business and plans to try it first in Dubai before moving back to China to launch an enterprise there. "I came to have a look and get a little experience and maybe get some business ideas," he says.

"Maybe I will try to open a business here first because it's easier. If it works, I might stay for a little more time." (Agencies)

Tea absent at A-share market

By Li Zhixin

American tea seller Teavana began trading on the New York Stock Exchange under the TEA symbol on July 28. Since then, China's tea sellers and economists have been wondering when the nation's top tea makers will follow the Atlanta company's lead.

Teavana's shares soared 64 percent after an initial public offering raised \$121.4 million on the first day. This shows the robust vitality of the tea industry," said Li Lei, an economic analyst at Hexun.com, China's top financial portal.

"However, the A-share market does not trade any tea companies, even though the tea industry is larger than the liquor industry in China."

It's not as if the tea industry has not considered it.

Going public has been a popular topic for tea industry insiders the last several years, especially with companies struggling to resolve funding problems. "Some major tea-producing provinces passed preferential measures to stimulate tea makers to go public," he said.

Businessman Wu Jian said the industry is in the process of blind expansion due to "venture capital and private equity investment funds."

"It is a good thing that the tea industry can receive such capital, but in terms of modern industry, China's tea industry is still in the early stages of development," he said. "Its industrial capacity is small."

Wu painted a dark picture of the tea industry, describing business owners, marketing teams and other employees as poorly qualified and unaware of the importance of brand building.

Li Tao, a senior tea seller, said tea enterprises are not suitable for listing as their products are hard to standardize, varying with geographic conditions and timing.

"China has been consuming tea for thousands of years. Tea has very strong geographical character in China, and people in different provinces have different preferences," Li said.

"Fujian people prefer Tieguanyin (a variety of oolong tea), Beijing people prefer Pu'er and Shanghai people prefer Longjing tea. If they were industrialized, they would lose their unique tastes and lose their consumers."

Olympic gold medalist booted off team after brawl



By Chu Meng

Personality can carry athletes a long way, but taken too far, it can be a hindrance to their performance.

Wang Meng, a 26-year-old four-time Winter Olympics gold medalist, was expelled from the Chinese national short track speed skating team after a drunken fight with her team manager, China's General Administration of Sport announced last Friday.

"Wang Meng has been expelled from the national team and will be banned from international competitions, as her numerous brawls and inappropriate behavior have seriously violated the team's discipline and jeopardized the image of the Chinese national team," the administration said in a public statement.

China's most talented short track speed skater and the most promising medal contender for the next Winter Olympics punched team manager Wang Chunlu after being criticized for failing to return to the camp on time after a night out with five teammates.

The administration said the punishment was also influenced by the fact that Wang had earlier been suspended following an incident at a training camp in Qingdao on July 24.

Wang, who was sent to the hospital to get stitches and a plaster cast after smashing furniture and a TV set in her dormitory in the fight, was said to be drunk at the time of the incident. Her teammates said Wang and the team manager had already had long-standing disagreements about training methods and that they had dueling personalities.

Also expelled was national team male speed skater Liu Xianwei, who allegedly stirred things up before the argument between Wang Meng and Wang Chunlu turned violent.

The statement also said four other squad members involved in the incident – Zhou Yang, Liu Qihong, Han Jialiang and Liang Wenhao – received the demerit, but would be allowed to keep training with the national team.

Comment

Better than no personality

An athlete today should have the personality to better deal with all the haters out there. Also, the audience wants to see athletes act like human beings.

– Liu Wenwen, Research Panel Asia China Branch researcher

New management tactics required

Neither a team manager's iron-fisted management policy nor an athlete's aggressive personality are to be blamed. Often the elite, who attain outstanding achievement

in his or her field, behaves in ways that are beyond others' comprehension.

We need to explore new management tactics to cope with the mental needs of young athletes, who also spend most of their spare time with iPad games, microblogs and fashion magazines.

A mature and professional sports training method must be one that can both take advantage of athletes' personalities and at the same time guide them on the right track.

– Xin Qinshan, former chief coach of Chinese national short track speed skating team

We lack quality education

China's national team athletes lack all-around development, including academic education and moral cultivation. Moreover, after more than 15 years of rigid training in the national team, isolated from society, it's no wonder some of them lack interpersonal communication skills and have personality defects.

– Yu Jun, teacher at Beijing Normal University

Worry for the next Olympics

Wang Meng has been expelled. Zhou Yang has quit. The short track speed skating team has been forced to suspend their comprehensive training course. Who will win the gold at the next Winter Olympics? Will we return the gold medal to Korea after having fought to win it for years?

– Diao Yizhen, media commentator

Office worker quits job to 'rent out air'

By Huang Daohen

Cao Sisi, 28, is doing what many of her friends are too scared to do: she quit her well-paid job with an annual salary of 300,000 yuan to establish a startup.

Cao, a former employee at a multinational company, started her own business renting out clean air. Air purifiers, that is.

"The air pollution has become worse and many people are yearning for clean air," she said.

Though her family did not support her at first, Cao got through the difficulties in the startup's infancy. In the first month, she received three orders, with revenue exceeding 1,000 yuan.

Cao said she has mapped out her business future, hoping to become a female entrepreneur dedicated to environmental protection.

Many doubt whether Cao's plan can work. But in a society where stability is highly valued and many young people shy away from getting involved in a startup, Cao's move kicked off a debate.

Comment

Do it while young

Cao has done something most of her fellow peers dare not: she translated her business ideas into a working reality, whether it works out or not in the end. Young people may find it particularly hard to set up a business and sustain it, especially in the early stages, but there are examples of success. One should start a business when he or she is still young.

– Judy Shi, cafe owner

Lack of seed capital and resources

I think there are two major problems young wannabe Chinese entrepreneurs face in their startups. First, they lack resources, which includes financing, mentors and experience.

Besides, unlike the majority of US students (creating startups), who are either rich or securely middle class, most top Chinese students have no fallback. One of my Chinese students, a young Tsinghua electrical engineering graduate, was really enthusiastic about Internet startups, but he got a job at an international financial firm. He said the money offered would allow his parents to retire from manual farming.

– Jeff Bass, US visiting scholar

A risky decision

Starting an own business is always attractive because you don't have to work for another company and can do what you want. And indeed, there are

young people in China who think now is a good time to try.

But renting out air is not a good idea. Currently, an easier and better way for young startup entrepreneurs is the IT industry. With the rise of mobile apps and social networking, you can do the apps in your spare time.

– Lee Lin,

IT engineer with Renren

Take stable jobs

Most parents in China have different attitudes toward startups. Traditionally, they hope their children take more stable and well-paying jobs. Therefore, if the choice was between Microsoft and a startup, Microsoft would win.

– Steven Chou, consultant at Zhaopin.com

从“纸间”到“指尖” 体验新读报乐趣

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Make film without the camera

By Li Zhixin

With the prevalence of digital products, it's easy to get nostalgic about movies made from old-fashioned reels. Last week, a group of film enthusiasts gathered at the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA) for a three-day 16-mm film collage workshop to discuss the future of the motion picture.

Participants made film collages – “moving pictures” that may last just a few seconds – using patterns and words cut from newspapers and magazines. Cameras were not involved.

“Everything is now digital. Film is no exception,” said Juan David Gonzalez Monroy, a member of the Berlin-based independent film club LaborBerlin, which is open to anyone interested in analog film. “With digital cameras and commercial movies blanketing the market, the computer has become the most popular editing platform for moviemaking, while analog film is being forgotten.”

The term “analog film” was never really used until digital film came along to provide an



UCCA's three-day workshop about the future of the motion picture
Photo by Li Zhixin

alternative. Indeed, the concept is somewhat outdated.

But that didn't stop dozens of film enthusiasts from attending the workshop, where they were encouraged to pursue personal projects and think about the development of analog film.

Monroy said in order to bolster the survival and development of the motion picture in Europe, his club helps organize screenings at regular intervals to explore different themes and

holds regular workshops teaching various technical aspects of analog film production.

Anja Dornieden, an experimental filmmaker, has been exploring alternative approaches to developing analog film for five years. “Although collaged films can't narrate stories like feature or art movies, it's a good medium to express your individual emotion and creation through its structural layout and design,” she said.



Participants making their films
Photo provided by UCCA

Although film enthusiasts have no idea what the fate of the analog film will be, they believe going back to motion pictures' roots can be an alternative to commercial films. “Film collage provides people a cheap and simple way to make a film. Wasted newspapers, magazines and even your hair can be good material for your creation,” Dornieden said. Basically, anything that might go into a collage.

Mary Wang, a college student and workshop attendee, was very delighted about her six-second-long product – her “film” – which required five hours of work. “The process requires great patience and concentration,” she said. “Although my job is rough, I love it very much, as it is my first ever film.”

She said that after viewing Monroy's previous works, she realized the meaning of being a professional is having the utmost patience with the task at hand.

Beijing Playhouse's new show coming to a theater near you

Next month, Beijing Playhouse will present its new show *Love, Sex and the IRS*.

The show is about Jon and Leslie, two out-of-work men rooming together in New York City who want to cheat on their taxes. They think claiming to be married will save a little money. When a suspicious IRS tax collector drops by to investigate, Leslie squeezes into a dress, wears makeup and pretends to be Jon's wife. Meanwhile, Jon's mother unexpectedly drops by to plan the wedding.

The show will take audiences through a wild ride of cross-dressing, sight gags, twists of fate and mistaken identities – the ingredients for mayhem in this slapstick comedy.

Though the title may lead you to believe otherwise, there's not much sex actually in the show, just innuendo and a crazy man running around in a dress. Safe for children, in other words.

Where: Trojan House Theater, 22 International Art Plaza, Guomao

When: Thursday to Saturday nights and Sunday matinees, September 9-25

Cost: 260 yuan in advance; 300 yuan at the door

Tel: 6538 4716

Email: performance@beijingplayhouse.com

(By Annie Wei)



Cast members of *Love, Sex and the IRS*
Photos provided by Beijing Playhouse



Landlord (middle) and the IRS tax collector (right)

Event

Soccer league seeking players

China ClubFootball is seeking new players and teams for its summer session. Spots are available from a junior league to advanced league. Students who are new to the club can get free trial games that run on weekends from August 20 to September 4 at several locations around the city. Book your spot in advance. Detailed information can be found on clubfootball.com.cn.

Where: Chaoyang Park, Olympic Forest Park, CIS, BCIS, Wangjing or Zhong-guancun

When: August 20 – September 4, 2011

Cost: Free

Tel: 5130 6893

First-ever marathon camp

Some of the city's best runners are teaming up to provide the country's first professional pre-marathon running camp. The camp lasts 10 weeks and prepares participants for the Beijing Marathon on October 16. Training involves equipping runners with different skills: speed, endurance, technique and barefoot running. All levels welcome, including beginners.

Where: Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District

When: August 14 – October 14

Cost: 600 yuan

Tel: 13581974260

Wine fever on Wednesdays

All wine lovers, attention please! You can enjoy wines on weekdays, too. Every Wednesday night at Enoterra, spend at least 200 yuan on a bottle of wine to get unlimited tapas. Call your friends and enjoy a wine night.

Where: Enoterra, D405, Nali Huayuan, 81 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Sanlitun

When: Every Wednesday, 8-11:30 pm

Cost: Varies

Tel: 5208 6076

Kocoon Yoga Class

Kocoon is offering a special yoga class that mixes Hatha, Ashtanga and Pilates. This is an exclusive class for a maximum of six people. You can also enjoy live guitar music and improvised chants during the session.

Where: The Opposite House (north of 3.3 building), Building 1, 11 Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Every Monday, 8-9:15 pm

Cost: 200 yuan

Tel: 5208 6068

(By Wei Xi)

Living by the sword

By Yao Weijie

Iaido is a Japanese martial art associated with sword drawing. It has recently gained attention in Beijing, where enthusiasts have been practicing in a basement since 2007.

"Only a few Chinese people know about it and practice it, but many foreigners like it," said Zhang Lin, 32, the lead member of Iaido in Beijing. "I am crazy about it, that's why I have practiced it for 10 years."

Zhang is a third dan Iaido practitioner. Unlike other sports, Iaido takes a long time to get higher rank. A first dan practitioner usually needs to wait a year before attempting to test for a second dan; a second dan practitioner needs to wait another two years to be qualified to test for the third dan. There are technically nine levels, but the final one is very rare. "Only people older than 80 can achieve that level," Zhang said.

Zhang first practiced Iaido when he was in college. He was a taekwondo student when he was approached by an Iaido teacher and asked to study the martial art. He was instantly hooked.

In 2005, he got a gold, silver and bronze medal at a competition in Hong Kong and become one of the members of the Zen Nippon Toyama-ryu Iaido League, taught by Hataya Yoshitoki.

There are two kinds of Iaido competitions held by two different leagues, open to people from around the world. Anyone who thinks he is qualified can try to prove himself in the competition.

People can also take the dan test to see what level they're at. They can register at Beijing's Seishijuku Dojo, a workshop where the master of Zen Nippon Toyama-ryu Iaido League comes every year for the test.

While new students of Iaido may start learning with a wooden sword, many who study Iaido use a blunt-edged sword. Only more experienced Iaido practitioners use a sharp sword.

"There are limited movements, so many people can't persist. They think it's boring," Zhang said. "Although these movements are basic, you can take it to the next level if you want."

"While we always accept new students, only a small percentage of them persevere."

Fu Jingnan, CEO of Umbrella Technology Company, is one of those who stuck with it. He's now in his third year doing Iaido.

"The process is like completing spiritual cultivation," he said. "I try to attend every course."

Zhang, in addition to Iaido, is learning Japanese and researching Japanese history. He and his wife have a shop that sells armor and swords.

"I like watching him practice Iaido," said Wang Fan, Zhang's wife. "He is a hero whose martial arts are unparalleled."

Where: B3 Youth Activities Center, 159 Middle School, Fuchengmen Nei, Xicheng District

When: Friday, 8-10 pm;

Sunday, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Cost: 600 yuan per quarter

Tel: 13810272961



Zhang Lin, the lead member of Iaido in Beijing, performing at Dojo

Photo by Fu Jingnan

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

Can you recommend some decent places that serve traditional Chinese food and local people go?

Everyone knows Quanjude and Bianyifang are famous for Peking duck, but if you're looking for something less touristy, try places like Baikuilao (158, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District; Tel: 6406 0667) or Huntunhou, a wonton eatery with many outlets in the city.

Chinese food can be further classified into different regional cuisines. You will find all kinds of restaurants that focus on different cuisines - the only question is, how to choose? That's up to you.

I moved to Beijing for work, and I know few people here. I sometimes want to go out to have a drink when I am tired of reading books or watching DVDs, but my Chinese colleagues told me only libertines go to bars alone. I just want to meet some nice people and talk in my native language. What's the drinking culture like in Beijing, and what places are good and popular with foreigners?

The drinking culture in Beijing has developed rapidly over the last five years or so, and despite what your Chinese colleagues tell you, there are many great choices that are perfectly fine to visit alone. It's probably best to avoid the main street in Sanlitun, which can get rowdy on weekends, but both Nali Patio and The Village have plenty of great bars and restaurants where lots of foreigners of all ages congregate. You can also try Nanluogu Xiang, a very popular alley for tourists and locals alike.

(By Wei Xi)

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From woodcuts to new media

By He Jianwei

Many commercially successful artists got their start by selling prints of their oil paintings. However, many critics decry their work as counterfeiting under the mask of print art.

Last Saturday, Today Art Museum exhibited works from the 1940s to present by 25 artists to explore how print art has changed during the last six decades and why it is declining in today's art world.

Print art in China has lost its function: it no longer is spreading art to the masses, and instead it is tending to end up in the hands of collectors. But that doesn't mean it has been forgotten.

The Second Academic Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Prints, organized by Li Fan, curator and vice dean of print at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA), is a landmark in the field, a starting point to rediscover the form.

In addition to 24 contemporary artists, Li selected works created by Gu Yuan in the 1940s in Yan'an. Gu is a recognized master of print art, and his works feature strong local characteristics.

Gu was born in 1919 in Guangdong Province and grew up in troubled times. He studied in the United States and returned to China and instead taught himself to paint.

At the age of 19, he read a news report about Yan'an, then the seat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. He went to Yan'an by train and became a student in the art department at Lu Xun Art College, which was founded in Yan'an in 1939 at the urging of Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai.

The college had a curriculum of education and studies in fine art, literature and music. Many well-known contemporary Chinese writers and artists were graduates of the college.

Since then period, Gu began to create woodcuts due to the scarcity of painting supplies. It was impossible to get ink, brushes and canvases during war time. So Gu used wood as a base and carved stamps, burned brushes into charcoal sticks and made brushes from hog hair.

But the reason he chose print art was that it was easy to disseminate to the people.

By cutting and painting, Gu recorded people's lives in Yan'an. His depictions of farming, fighting, studying and celebrating were simple and direct. He used today's art students' favorite book material for his prints.

One of his most famous pieces depicts divorce in a village. In the past, women were raised to submit to the desires of their parents and husband; rarely did an unhappy marriage end. By the 1940s, many people were advocating gender equality, and in Yan'an one village woman dared to sue for divorce.

"My father told me his generation had an unusual life and that he hoped their times would be preserved on paper," Gu's daughter Gu An'an said.

"In his early works, we can see the influence of Russian and German art, but he gradually developed his own style and created a unique Chinese spirit. It is a topic that we always discuss today, not only in fine art, but also in literature and music," Li said.

Gu's works have shaped generations of artists.

"His works represent Chinese people in daily life, much like drama. I can accumulate real information about Chinese people from his work," said Xu Bing, vice

President of CAFA.

Xu has a special connection to Gu's work. As an elementary school student, Xu wrote a composition called "I Love Gu Yuan's Paintings" after seeing an example article called "I Love Lin Fengmian's Paintings" in a book. Xu wrote that his spring outing gave him the same feeling as seeing one of Gu's paintings of Beijing. During his attendance at CAFA, Xu studied Gu's woodcut art books, including paintings from Germany and Russia and an album of Gu's woodcuts. When he was sent to the countryside, Xu began making print art for the villagers in his spare time.

"The village I stayed in looked like what Gu carved in his woodcuts," Xu said. In 1977, Xu enrolled at CAFA's print art department and learned Gu's techniques. "It was easier for me to understand Gu's works, because I had lived in a village for a period as well," he said. "His art is a reference point for my career. I often look back to it after creating to see where I stand."

In one of his well-known works, *Book From the Ship*, created from 1987 to 1990, Xu traveled a thousand miles to China to collect old books and turned them into wooden blocks and crafted hundreds of books using traditional typesetting and binding techniques.

If Xu's generation inherited Gu's spirit, then Fang Lijun's has taken the next step.

After graduating from CAFA's print art department in 1989, Fang began working in the printing industry before moving to Songzhuang. Unlike previous artists, Fang's print work is larger and is made from different tools. The largest of his works is nearly four meters tall, so it would be difficult to make with a carving knife.

When he visited Norway in 1996, he saw an artist use an electric saw to create his work. Fang was inspired to develop a similar technique after his return.

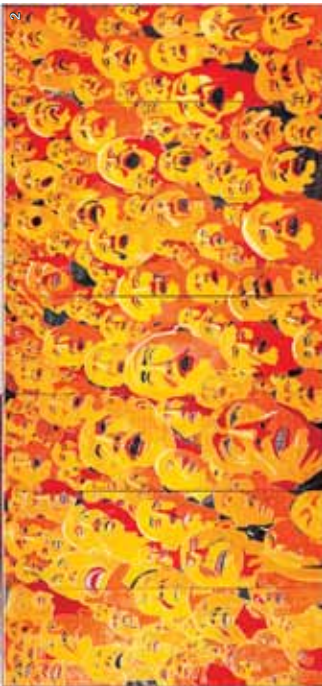
"The electric saw compensates for the limitations of knife, because the blade of the knife quickly dulls," Fang said.

The young generation goes beyond the concept of carving and printing to incorporate new media, digital prints, audio and video.

At first glance, some of their works have nothing to do with the traditional concept of print art, such as Yan's audio installation *How to Crack Sunflower Seeds*, in which viewers can crack their own seeds and spit the shells on the floor. Yan is using visitors to the exhibit to collect even more cracking sounds.

The odd exhibit is part of his attempt to merge print art with the Internet. Yan said he wanted to use the Internet to spread printing as audio and send the samples to people who give their email address in the exhibition hall.

"Besides print works, I am displaying installations and video and sound projects in this exhibition. I do not want to show the novelty of print art, but I hope we take time to reflect on its spirit," Li said.



Photos provided by Today Art Museum

"Besides print works, I am displaying installations and video and sound projects in this exhibition. I do not want to show the novelty of print art, but I hope we take time to reflect on its spirit."



Print•Concept

The Second Academic Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Prints & Specially Invited Exhibition Woodcut Prints by Gu Yuan in Yan'an

Where: Today Art Museum, 32 Baizwain Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until August 19, 10 am - 5 pm
Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Tel: 5976 9804



1. Most of Xu Bing's works are related to traditional printing techniques.
2. Fang Lijun uses an electric saw to create large print works.
3. *Sundress Voice II* by Xu Bingzhong
4. Gu Yuan recorded people's lives in Yan'an in the 1940s.
5. Chinese Silk by Zhuang Hui and Dan Er
6. Oral History by Kong Guojiao
7. Confucius City by Huang Guojiao
8. Yan Jia (left) records his sound project *How to Crack Sunflower Seeds*.

Encounter by Yang Yumin

Republic-era textbooks back in print



By Wei Xi

Last Saturday afternoon, poet Chen Guoping and educator Wang Ling met to talk about *Chinese Textbooks in the Republic of China* (Minguo Yuwen), a new collection of reading materials selected from old textbooks.

Chen said Chinese language education used to be a cornerstone of early development that provided children with communication skills and fostered strong values and character.

But today's schools are diverting attention away from language teaching – a trend that is obvious to anyone who opens a contemporary primary or middle school textbook.

The new book hopes to kickstart a renaissance of traditional education.

It contains science fiction stories, traditional legends, allegories and nursery rhymes edited by renowned writer and educator Ye Shengtao and Cai Yuanpei, the first president of Peking University during the Republic of China (1911-1949).

Minguo Yuwen is not the only Republic-era textbook to find new readers. A reprint of the *Kaiming Chinese Textbook* last year became a bestseller and a hit with parents.

Many other old textbooks are slated for release this year, such as *The Old Textbook for Cultivating the Mind*, *The Old Textbook of Chinese Language* and *The Old Textbook of the Republic of China*.

Fu Mahuo, a poet and book planner, said primary and middle school textbooks in the Republic of China were edited by influential intellectuals at a time when classical writing was giving way to the modern vernacular.

"The literary achievements of these people determined the quality of the books they edited," he said.

The contents and pictures were also closer to children's life, and were aimed at developing children's ability to be independent, Fu said.

And in that area, they were far superior to modern textbooks.

"Chinese people today obviously suffer from having received a limited education in etiquette," he said. "Most children grow up single and never experience brotherhood or sisterhood. Their impetuosity is resulting in a society that fails to honor honesty, credibility, lenience and modesty."

Along with the old textbooks, some Republic-era children's compositions

have been collected and re-published in *Primary School Student Compositions in the Republic of China*.

"Because of the strict requirements contemporary educators place on children, most modern compositions are boring and vapid," said Xie Xizhang, a critic.

Xie said modern children's compositions are supposed to contain "meaning" – a repetition of whatever the government wants to promote. Children who write about games or catching fish are discouraged by their teachers.

Urbanization and pressure are also responsible for children's weakened composition ability, Xie said.

Children living in cities like Beijing and Shanghai are surrounded by dull skyscrapers rather than natural scenery, and their weekday courses and weekend extracurricular classes leave them little time to experience nature.

The resurgence of old educational books may reflect a new demand for traditional education.

Wang Lin said the two key elements that decide the level of Chinese education are the teacher and the teaching materials, neither of which is dispensable.

Bookworm book listing

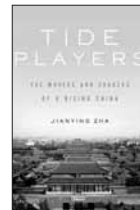
The Bookworm recommends the following bestsellers to *Beijing Today* readers.



Consumptionomics: Asia's Role in Reshaping Capitalism and Saving the Planet

By Chandran Nair, 256pp, Wiley, \$27.95

Consumption has been for many years the fuel that drives the engine of global capitalism. The recent financial crisis has seen leading economists and policymakers urging Asia to make a conscious effort to consume more and save the global economy. In the book, the author argues that the conventional view needs to be replaced – Asians consuming at these desired levels could decimate the environment.



Tide Players: The Movers and Shakers of a Rising China

By Zha Jianying, 224pp, New Press, \$24.95

The author depicts a new generation of movers and shakers who are transforming modern China. Her vivid cast of characters includes a couple who teamed up to become the country's leading real-estate moguls and a gifted chameleon who transformed himself from a barefoot doctor to a publishing maverick.



The Tiger's Wife: A Novel

By Tea Obreht, 352pp, Random House, \$25

This is a story about family legend, loss and love. In a Balkan country, mending after years of conflict, the young doctor Natalia arrives on a mission of mercy at an orphanage by the sea. She confronts a hurtful mystery – the inexplicable circumstances surrounding her beloved grandfather's recent death. After telling her grandmother that he was on his way to meet Natalia, he instead set off for a ramshackle settlement none of their family had ever heard of and died there alone.

(By He Jianwei)

Power of the literary orphan

By Wei Xi

Yan Lianke's new book *Discovering Novels*, written based on his experiences in and thoughts about novel writing, compares world literature of the 19th and 20th centuries with current Chinese literature.

During a talk at One Way Street last Saturday, Yan said the secret to being a first-class novelist is to be an "orphan" instead of a darling of the literary world.

Using the example of Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa, Yan said Llosa's failure in the presidential election of 1990 prompted his return to literature, where he produced another excellent work.

"But I don't think he could still be seen as an orphan of literature after receiving the Nobel Prize and winning the support of hundreds and thousands of readers," Yan said.

"Even though he was very experienced, he began to love life so much that he could barely say anything bad about it. His work as a writer deteriorated as a consequence."

"Orphan of literature" is a phrase that turns up throughout Yan's writing, and is one he uses to describe the sense of loneliness that keeps writers at a distance from society and adds weight to their words.

Yan said the 19th and 20th centuries produced a number of writers who focused on



Discovering Novels

By Yan Lianke, 217pp, Nankai University Press, 29.8 yuan

realism, and that their realism falls into four broad groups: power, secular life, humanity and spirituality.

Works of realism that focus on power are not real at all, he said, but creations born of strong political power. Many were produced by Nazi and Soviet writers in Germany and Russia.

He calls the ever-popular *Gone With the Wind* a work concerned with "secular life" because it does not focus on strict causal logic, preferring to be merely representative of common experiences.

Realism that concerns humanity and spirituality is the most real, Yan said, noting that both breathe real life into their characters. Spiritual works in particular tend to leave their readers with deep thoughts.

"The thoughts you get from *Crime and Punishment* can make your soul shiver and your back go cold," Yan said.

China's contemporary literature has been greatly influenced by the realism movement of the 19th and 20th centuries. Yan urged Chinese writers to break from these old writing models and create something newer and more personal.

Yan is the author of *The Dream of Ding Village*, a story about the blood trade and AIDS epidemic in a rural Henan village; *Serve the People*, which has been translated into English, French and Japanese; and *Song of the Plow*, a story of the hardships faced by people living on the Loess Plateau.

Tailored underwear for health and fashion



By Chu Meng

Luxury haute couture has been clogging up the Chinese catwalks for so long that many women believe that the best way to look elegant is to spend gads of money on ready-to-wears dresses.

But the real mark of class is a properly fitted, fine-textured bra or lingerie ensemble that is seen by no one except the wearer.



Liu Bo, Aimer's exclusive custom bra and lingerie designer

Photos provided by Zhang He



Custom made bra studio



The steps in making a custom bra

In spite of the thousands of dazzling cotton, seamless, lace and strapless bras at the mall, some women just cannot find underwear that is a perfect fit.

For Dong Yanqing, the 28-year-old party planner at a public relations company, the answer is tailor-made underwear.

"Wearing formal dresses is an important part of my job. With dress designs getting more novel and complicated, finding the right bra to match can be impossible," she said.

Finding the perfect bra among conventional products is impossible if she needs a base strong enough to wear with a backless dress the entire night. "It's even harder because one of my breasts is a slightly different size from the other," she said.

She passed up numerous evening costumes until she found Liu Bo, a custom bra and lingerie designer, this summer.

Located in Wangjing, Liu Bo's studio is decorated like a European palace beauty parlor with crystal lights, big purple velvet sofas and cozy accessories. It features a floor-to-ceiling three-sided mirror and a 3D breast measuring machine.

Since July, Dong has been visiting Liu Bo for tailor-made bras to match her evening dresses and personalized cups for daily use.

"They say only the feet know whether the shoes are comfortable. It's the same for breasts. With bras designed and sewed to fit me, it's like the first time I've had something that truly fit," she said. "Besides, the beautiful shape brings me more confidence."

Now in her late 30s, Liu Bo is the exclusive designer of Aimer, one of the country's top underwear brands. She worked as a bra pattern maker for seven years before becoming a custom bra and lingerie designer three years ago.

Liu said that custom-made bras are created to fit the customer's body shape, breast health, sports habits,

career and personality. She also makes custom lingerie, girdles, panties, one-piece dresses, pajamas, wedding lingerie and cocktail dresses.

Each design is created to be functional if created for sports use or daily wear. Bras can be made from a variety of materials and in longline, front-opening, padded and maternity styles.

But modeling bras and mastectomy bras are Aimer's specialties – and the reason Liu went from being a pattern maker to a leading bra designer.

"I still remember the customer [who changed my career]," Liu said. "She was a breast cancer patient in her 40s who had a mastectomy. At the beginning, she tried on the products in private. I could tell she was extremely self-conscious."

"She eventually told me that, for years, she would only wear men's shirts to help hide her missing breast," she said. "At that time, we had no products available for her."

Breast cancer has been on the rise among Chinese women due to unhealthy urban lifestyles, but no products were being made to target post-op patients.

Liu took the customer's measurements and worked with the company's designers to create a sculpted, silica gel prosthesis that would be stitched into the cup.

"One month later, when the customer tried the new product, I saw a big smile on her face. It was really satisfying, and I wanted to help more women who face breast troubles," she said.

She established a custom-made bra studio under Aimer and began working with the Chinese Academy of Sciences to invent the country's first 3D breast measurement machine and created a pool with scans of 2,000 women's breasts in 2009.

Only 15 conventional bra products are available on the Chinese market: cup sizes A, B, C, D and E, each in three band sizes. But the offerings can hardly meet

the needs of most women.

"Dong has uneven breasts. If she always wears a bra sized for the smaller breast, the underwire will hurt the lymph nodes in the other breast. If she wears a garment sized for the larger breast, it will cause the other breast to sag," she said.

A custom bra is more about health than fashion or luxury, Liu said.

Custom bras require three weeks to complete.

First appointment: Liu learns about the client's needs and worries, her lifestyle and what she likes and hates about her current bras. She examines the breasts, collects measurements and analyzes the client's overall body shape. Easily removable clothes are recommended for the first visit, since much of the consultation must be done naked.

Second appointment: A dummy bra is created using the measurements. The client can try it on and customize the cups, fabric, colors and accessories like lace.

Liu will instruct the client in how to wear and maintain her bra, and in proper breast care.

Third appointment: The client tries on the mostly finished product for final adjustments.

Fourth appointment: The client receives her bra.

The designer's tips

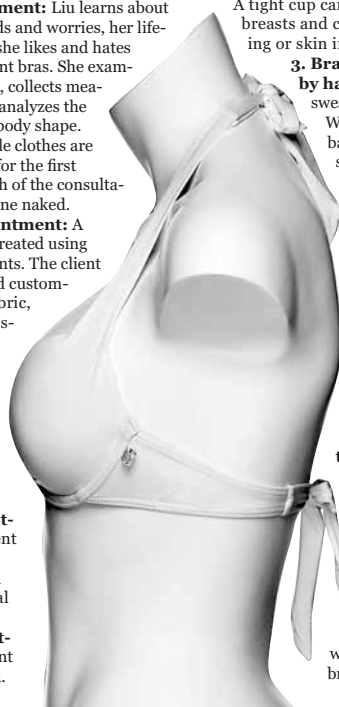
1. The most important thing is for a bra to fit correctly on its lower edge. A tight lower edge will compress the lymph nodes under the breasts and in the armpits, which is detrimental to health. However, a bra that fits too loose is useless.

2. The shape and size of cups decide the final appearance. They should be supportive and not too tight. A tight cup can leave marks on the breasts and cause excessive sweating or skin infection.

3. Bras are best washed by hand. Underwear gets sweaty; it rarely gets dirty. Wash your bras in a hand basin using lukewarm, soapy water. **Let them soak, then rinse them out and pat them dry with a towel.** Leave your bras to hang dry in the shade.

4. If the underwire comes out of the bra, it might be the wrong size. Machine washing can also cause damaging pressure to the garment.

5. Be careful that the straps do not sit too wide at the back, which can cause them to fall off the shoulders, or that the elastic on the lower edge of the bra is too wide or prone to rolling upwards, which will make the back of the bra too narrow or too tight.



Natural soap works better for skin



By Annie Wei

As someone obsessed with lovely handmade soaps, Kou Jianxuan, 29, a creative director for two advertising agencies, decided to create his own brand, DEKOU.

Kou said he got the idea to make his own soap due to all his time spent traveling and staying in hotels.

"I didn't have much to do at night in other cities while waiting for a client's feedback," he said.

As a city dweller who seeks high-quality living, Kou is interested in healthy, environmentally friendly products.

"I read a book about chemical cleansing products by brand companies and I was shocked," Kou said. "Do you know how many toxic ingredients in a supermarket shampoo might cause cancer?"

After going to some essential oil classes with his girlfriend, Kou bought a book about making cold-pressure soap and tried it on his desktop.



Honey soap, 35 yuan



Herbal soap, 35 yuan

"Before I tried making my own, I bought various known brands like Strengers, but they are so expensive," he said. A 100-gram soap starts from 60 yuan and a bubble

DEKOU handmade soap, starting at 25 yuan

Photos by Sardine

bath ball at 45 yuan. "Can you believe it? A bath ball is only used one time."

But Kou realized, after trying to make his own soap, that using natural ingredients isn't cheap.

Aside from the chemical product sodium carbonate, all other ingredients of DEKOU soaps are natural, such as fresh milk, olive oil, essential oil, algae mud, charcoal and herbs.

"At first, I used Jurlique essential oil. But the cost got too high for customers," he said. Then he found a reliable supplier online and began making his own ingredients. "Herbs like lavender or chamomile need to be soaked in olive oil at least a month to create an extraction."

"Natural soap does not dry up

your skin, leaving it feeling natural and comfortable after bathing without lotion, especially during the winter," Kou said. "If you don't feel that way, your soap might not be made with natural ingredients."

The secret to making a commercial soap is the ingredients ratio. Kou said he experimented many times to get it just right for different soaps. Some soaps, like the Shea butter chamomile, take a month to prepare.

Kou's products are online, but so far have mainly been sold to friends. "I don't have a workshop or factory to produce the soap yet."

Anyone interested should check out store.taobao.com/?shop_id=60657517.



Charcoal soap for men, 40 yuan



Oat and honey soap, 40 yuan

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Southern tested, southern approved



Fish maw, pork tripe and chicken hotpot, 68 yuan Photos provided by Zhen Zhudui

Pork tripe and chicken hotpot – classic Hakka

Xu Zhongmeng, a 40-something man in the creative industry, recommended the restaurant Zhen Zhudui, saying he visits once a week for its soup and baozifan, a clay pot of rice topped with meat and vegetables, as well as Cantonese-flavor beef and fish balls.

The best dish may be the zhudui (48 yuan), pork tripe and chicken hotpot, a classic Hakka dish. The dish is nutritious according to Hakka dining tradition, especially for a woman who has just given birth.

Xu was born in Hong Kong, then studied and lived in Taiwan for many years. "For southern men, we are raised on soup prepared for

long hours by our mothers or wives."

So start with a bowl of zhudui soup, then eat the tender pork tripe and chicken. The soup has a strong flavor and creamy color due to prolonged stewing with lots of chicken feet and pork tripe. The soup does not use MSG. "I'd know, because I'm allergic to it," Xu said.

The pork tripe is clean, tender and chewy.

After that, one can add other hotpot ingredients. Vegetables and tofu start at 12 yuan. Quality beef and fish balls (22 yuan) are shipped from Guangdong Province and are chewy and juicy.

End the meal with a bowl of baozifan (48 yuan), which can be shared by three people.

Zhen Zhudui

Where: B1-138, North Tower, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 5900 1816



Beef balls, 22 yuan

By Annie Wei

All of a sudden, Beijingers seem to have stronger cravings for southern food than ever before, from the strong fermented flavor of snail soup rice noodles to bubble tea, from Sichuan to Hakka hotpots.

Beijing Today has found some new places to satisfy your cravings.

Bubble tea stores boom around Gulou

For whatever reason, bubble tea stores are booming along Gulou Dong Dajie this summer. Compared to coffee, bubble tea has more flavors and is a cheaper way to chill out.

We recommend Cha Time and Dandelion, both of which opened two weeks ago. Dandelion is a small shop next to Zarah Café run by a young woman and her sister. Apart from offering bubble tea (8 to 18 yuan), it also has smoothies (starting at 13 yuan), waffles (starting at 6 yuan) and coffee (22 yuan).

Cha Time, a global bubble tea chain from Shanghai, offers a clean environment and simple drinks in many flavors.

Both bubble tea booths are meticulous about their sugar use. Cha Time has five different sugar levels. Health-conscious customers can ask for no ice or zero-sugar drinks.

However, any street bubble tea vendor has to use non-dairy creamer or milk tea powder. If you really like bubble tea flavor but want a healthier alternative, use fruit juices instead of the flavoring.



CFP Photo

Dandelion

Where: 40-6, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 9 am – 11 pm
Tel: 13910519533
for delivery

Cha Time

Where: 38-2, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 9 am – 11 pm

Easy bubble tea

Ingredients

1 or 2 bags of Assam tea
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup white sugar

1/2 cup chilled tapioca pearls

1 cup crushed ice

3/4 cup coconut milk

1/4 cup milk

You can add fruit juice for extra flavoring.

Preparation

1. Boil a cup of Assam tea and throw in brown and white sugar.

2. Add the tapioca pearls in boiled water until tender, about 10 minutes. Drain. Place the pearls in sugar water and chill.

3. Mix the sugar Assam tea in a blender, add ice, coconut milk, milk and other fruit juice. Then pour the mixture into a large glass and spoon pearls into it.



CéCi姐妹 & AIRTIME 正式启动“亚洲新青年成长计划”

2011年7月28日(星期四)晚,在北京青少年发展基金会的支持下,CéCi(姐妹科学)、《青年周末AIRTIME》发起的“亚洲新青年成长计划”启动仪式于北京举行。作为倡导亚洲新时尚的CéCi(姐妹科学)和引领中国主流青年积极健康生活方式的《青年周末AIRTIME》一起携手全球各领域时尚品牌为有志的亚洲青年提供一个可以实现梦想的舞台,让热爱时尚的青年人向社会发出自己的声音,让他们获得各类成长培训的资助,从而实现自己的理想和抱负!

作为持续性关注亚洲青年成长的公益盛事,“亚洲新青年成长计划”启动仪式现场星光熠熠。各级领导、媒体高层、演艺名人、全球时尚品牌高层、社会名流、行业精英及百家媒体齐聚一堂,共同见证经典时刻的荣耀。北京青年报社社长张延平社长宣布“亚洲新青年成长计划”正式启动,以手绘亚洲城市风貌为主视觉元素的主题舞台,随着舞台电音的砰然落下精彩呈现,“亚洲新青年成长计划”拉开帷幕!

作为亚洲时尚媒体一分子,CéCi(姐妹科学)及《青年周末AIRTIME》将不遗余力为时尚产业做贡献,持之以恒地致力于发展青年成长事业,以真诚、努力和坚持为亚洲时尚行业发展挖掘新的能量,缔造更为生机勃勃的未来!

“亚洲新青年成长计划”作为时尚界关注青年人才成长的公益项目,得到了社会各界的关注,周大福珠宝、中央芭蕾舞团、ALEXWANG等各界品牌与机构纷纷给予活动大力支持!成长计划与中影集团建立战略联盟关系,为亚洲影视文化产业培养和输送更多有志青年。“亚洲新青年成长计划”的启动还吸引了更多领域的机构关注,全球最大饭店及娱乐休闲集团之一的喜达屋集团也于当晚与成长计划建立战略联盟关系。



1. “亚洲新青年成长计划”与中影集团、全球最大饭店及娱乐休闲集团之一的喜达屋集团建立战略联盟关系。北京青年报社社长张延平社长(右一)颁发“亚洲新青年成长计划”特别战略合作证书!中国电影股份有限公司总经理助理赵海城先生(左一)、喜达屋集团代表北京朝阳城邦酒店总经理 Daniel Aylmer 先生(中)。
2. “亚洲之声”国际流行音乐大赛金质获得者——歌者森为嘉宾精彩演唱经典作品《霸王》(黄碧芬)。
3. 北青传媒独立董事暨教授博士、韩国CéCi杂志首席编辑、CéCi(姐妹科学)副社长(青年周末AIRTIME)负责人、设计师、与香港著名导演王晶导演、颁发“亚洲新青年成长计划”公益大使、王学兵、黄渤、林熙、王亚迪、丁子峻等荣获“亚洲新青年成长计划”公益爱心大使称号。
4. “亚洲新青年成长计划”的形象大使授予北京国际电影节影帝王千源先生。北青传媒总编辑陈伟先生为“亚洲新青年成长计划”形象大使王千源颁发证书。
5. 中国国家芭蕾舞团首席明星、国家一级演员王启敏、李俊精彩演绎《蝴蝶梦》。
- 6.7. 时尚引领者、设计师领域的成长代表王地Alex Wang带来的精彩作品发布,并特邀龙腾精英名模黄超超精彩演绎。
8. 著名主持人谢娜现场激情献唱主持。
9. 现场媒体采访。
10. 由中影集团独家赞助的现场活动。

Life through glasses

By He Jianwei

A pair of glasses can change a person: it can improve one's eyesight, change how one is perceived by others or, in the case of sunglasses, conceal one's intentions.

Liu Jin, in his latest work, further explores this idea by taking portraits of people with and without spectacles.

Those who are photographed wear the same clothes and expressions, but it is clear that they look different in the two portraits. For example, people's eyes suddenly grow bright and piercing after taking off their frames.

Glasses are a metaphor in Liu's works – they help people see the world. They can see

a clearer world through glasses, but it's more doubtful whether they can see truth: people's desires, greed, vanity and envy.

Liu drew inspiration from one of his friends in 2007, when, in the middle of a conversation, his friend took off his glasses and rubbed his eyes.

Three years later, he began to take the pictures. His plan was to take portraits of 200 people of different ages and ethnicities.

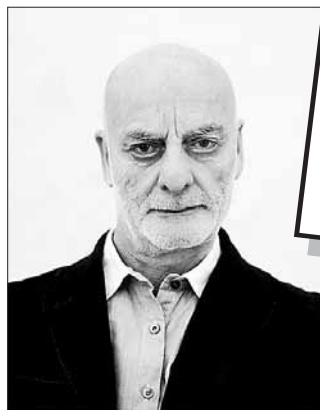
At first, he couldn't decide whether to use celebrities or ordinary people.

As a famous photographer in Chinese contemporary art, it would have been easy for him to invite celebrities to sit for the pictures, but he thought the works might end up looking too commercial.

In the end, he decided to use a combination of both: two-thirds celebrities, one-third ordinary people.

The works reflect a process of negotiation between the photographer and the photographed. Liu will continue this series in the next three to five years.

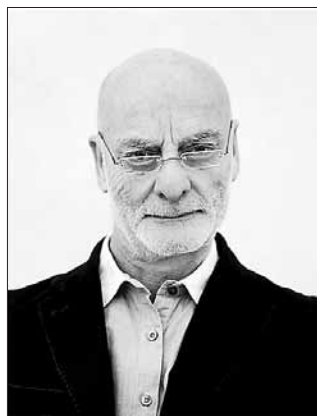
The Second Face – New Works of Liu Jin
Where: White Box Museum of Art,



798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 15, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 4801



The art collector Uli Sigg by Liu Jin

Photo provided by White Box Museum of Art

5 Friday, August 12

Movie

Strayed (2003)

A widow and her two children escape downtown Paris as German troops advance in 1940. They meet a teenager who helps them find an abandoned house as a refuge from the war.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 4 pm
Admission: 15 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Tel: 8459 9269

Exhibition

Unconsciousness – Luo Qing Solo Exhibition

Luo's oil paintings reflect his concern over isolation and desperation. In one of his series, he paints a group of people wearing the same

hooded uniform, making them indistinguishable as individuals.

Where: Eli Klein Fine Art, 22 International Art Plaza, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 10, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5807 4927

Nightlife

Post-Rock Summer Night

Two local post-rock bands, Glow Curve and Sparrow, release their latest albums, *Glow Curve 2011* and *Light for Japan*.

Where: Mako Livehouse, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan advance purchase, 50 yuan at the door
Tel: 5205 1112

Sunday, August 14

Exhibition

You Are My Landscape

This exhibition presents five artists who graduated from the same college seven years ago, but developed in different artistic directions, including minimalism, urban and rural issues, and the relationship between men and space.

Where: 01100001, 241 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 3, daily except Monday, 11 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5127 3204

Nightlife

Kamila Nasr

Canadian singer-songwriter Nasr plays Bossa Nova and funk music.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 30 yuan advance

6 Saturday, August 13

Exhibition

Future Supreme – Wan Zhenyu Solo Exhibition

Wan places realistic images into surreal spaces, resulting in a visual experience that is both familiar and alien.

Where: Art Seasons, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 11, daily except Monday and Tuesday, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9850

Movie



Mammuth (2010)

Serge Pilardosse retires from his job in a slaughterhouse when he turns 60. He hasn't missed a day of work since he was 16, but he doesn't get the full benefits of his pension because his former employers forgot to declare his earnings. So he has to ride his "Mammuth" bike in search

of the missing document.

Where: French Cultural Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm
Admission: 20 yuan, 10 yuan for students
Tel: 6553 2627

Nightlife



Red Rabbit and His Friends

Red Rabbit blends its rock style with folk music from Inner Mongolia.

Where: The One Club, Building 5, 718 Art and Culture Zone, 19 Ganluyuan, Gaobeidian Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 8 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 400 898 8383, 400 610 3721

Upcoming

Nightlife

Terry Hsieh Quartet

Trombonist Terry Hsieh, pianist Xia Jia, bassist Zhang Ke and drummer Bei Bei for a jazz-playing quartet.

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: August 17, 8:30 pm
Admission: 40 yuan
Tel: 6401 4611

Stage in August

Concert

Myung-whun Chung and Asia Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 4, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-800 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Sun Yingdi Piano Recital

Where: Multi-functional Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 5, 7:30 pm
Admission: 200-280 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Roger Lord Piano Recital

Where: Forbidden City Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: August 21, 7:30 pm
Admission: 20-100 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

Dance

Rojas and Rodriguez's Flamenco

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 13-14, 7:30 pm
Admission: 160-680 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Drama

Crosstalk Travelers

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: August 5-7, 7:30 pm
Admission: 190-900 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Hysterics

Where: Nine Theater (TNT), Chaoyang Culture Center, 12 Jintai Li, Chaoyang District

When: August 25-28, 7:30 pm
Admission: 100-200 yuan, 50 yuan for students
Tel: 6551 6930

Opera

Rigoletto

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 25-27, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-800 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Nights perfect for squeezing in a run

By Li Zhixin

Most people are aware of the health benefits of a daily jog, but with limited daily hours and long commutes, city residents can seldom squeeze in a daily run.

But evening jogs are every bit as healthy, and in some ways may be even more so.

Refuel your vitality

Before he became a full-time programmer, Guo Xiaofang used to go for morning runs with his college roommates.

"A daily run helped me stay energetic and kept my mind sharp and clear during class," he said.

But work and family life after graduation sapped his mood and vigor until the habit became impossible to maintain.

"I can tell that my health is going to the dogs. My shoulders lock up, my neck hurts, my appetite sucks, I can't sleep at night and I feel scatterbrained. And I'm not even close to turning 40," Guo said.

On a Friday night walk through Tuanjiehu Park after a student reunion, he saw many joggers going around the lake. He said he felt nostalgic for the days when he used to jog on campus and decided to start jogging after dusk.

After two months spent running each night he regained his vitality.

"The mild fatigue after running or doing exercise helps me to sleep," he said. "Now I seldom feel sleepy during the day."

He said his appetite has improved and his neck pain has also eased.

"From a medical point of view, running after dusk is good for your health as long as you can control the intensity of the exercise," said Jiao Wei, the deputy director of the Sport Rehabilitation Department at Beijing Sport University.

The human body's internal organs tend to operate at a lull in the early morning. Although morning runs provide a great cardiovascular workout and strengthen and tone the muscles, they can be dangerous for people with impaired cardiovascular function.

"Human mobility should be at its peak after dusk, as our body has an easier time adapting to moving rhythms," she said.

"Running makes your heart stronger by increasing the capacity for blood circulation and oxygen distribution from the respiratory system," she said. "This is essential for maintaining good fitness."

It also speeds up the digestive system and can help relieve digestive problems, Jiao said. Many people who live a sedentary lifestyle develop digestive problems that can improve with a healthier diet and regular running.

Besides providing runners with better overall physical health, regular running can promote relaxation and reduce depression and anxiety.

"It also increases one's capacity to work and lead an active life," she said. For many, it is a great way to burn calories, increase bone density and get in shape.

Warm-up can't be ignored

The Sport Medicine Branch of the China Sports Science Society says one can get sufficient exercise by running three nights each week for 30 to 60 minutes.

The runner's pulse should be kept at fewer than 120 beats per minute during the first five minutes of the run, and under 100 beats per minute after that.

"Those who do not exercise daily can start off with a brisk walk," Jiao said. "Walk 20 minutes the first week, 25 minutes the second week, 30 minutes the third week and then you can mix in jogging and walking on the fourth week. After that, start running."

But regardless of how you start your exercise program, you should begin each run with a warm-up.

"Do 5 to 10 minutes of light aerobic exercises like leg stretches and squats to loosen your muscles and get them ready for dynamic action," said Wei Chao, an outdoor exercise enthusiast who has been running for more than 10 years.

You can also warm up with a brisk walk, a jog or a ride on a stationary bicycle. Do not try to rush the warm-up.

"When you start to exercise, don't start out racing, but jog slowly and gradually build up your speed," he said.

After you finish running, cool down by walking or jogging for 5 to 10 minutes.

"Stretch your lower back, neck, calves, quadriceps, hamstrings and groin area for 15 to 30 seconds after your cool-down to prevent muscle ache, neck pain and backache," he said.

Tips for running at night

Many people are concerned about the potential for running to cause long term damage to the knees, ankles and hips. However, with good quality shoes and a sensible approach, the risks are minimal and the benefits outweigh the risks.

1. Choose the right running shoes.

The most important piece of running equipment you will need is a pair of good running shoes. Go to a specialty running store after a run. Wear the socks you normally wear when you run and bring in your old running shoes if possible. A good running-shoe salesman can pick out the right shoes for you by looking at the wear pattern on your old shoes.

2. Don't wear black, brown, dark blue or green colors at night.

Make sure that you are wearing reflective clothing. The ability of others to see you at night is directly related to the amount of reflective and light-color material you wear. White, orange and yellow clothes are recommended.

Wear reflective gear. Although some items like shoes or jackets may already have reflective pieces, it doesn't hurt to add more.

3. Choose a well-lit route.

A well-lit route that goes against traffic is the safest choice. Oncoming cars can see you better and you'll always be able to see the road and avoid potential hazards.

If walking or running, stay on the sidewalk and always use the crosswalk. Avoid areas without sidewalks and crosswalks.

4. Don't wear a headset.

Wearing headphones diminishes a runner's ability to hear a car horn, a voice or a potential attacker.

5. Wear a billed cap and clear glasses.

The bill of a cap will hit an unseen tree branch or another obstacle before it hits your head. Clear glasses will protect your eyes from bugs and other unseen obstacles.

6. Run with a partner.

If possible, try to never run alone. If you're running alone, let someone know the route you're running and approximately how long you will be out.

7. Choose the right hours.

Runners with inner-ear problems or other equilibrium conditions should avoid training late at night when maintaining proper balance can be more difficult.

8. Carry your mobile phone.

You should be able to contact police or family member immediately if something happens to you.



Hiking arcadian mountain peaks



Boundary between Beijing and Hebei

Haituo Mountain, located at the junction of Yanqing County in Beijing and Chicheng County in Hebei Province, has three peaks, called First, Second and Third Haituo. The major peak is 2,241 meters high, making it the second highest peak in Beijing behind Lingshan Mountain. At First Haituo, there is a meadow that runs about 10 kilometers and is half a kilometer wide.

Haituo Mountain is roughly divided into two parts by a ridge. One part, the Big Haituo, is located in southwest Chicheng County, Hebei, with Zhangjiakou off to the west, Chengde to the east and Beijing to the south. It is Beijing's most important line of defense against northern sandstorms.

The other side, Little Haituo, is located in northwest Zhangshanying Village in Yanqing. It is also called Pine Mountain for its large areas of pine forests.

Haituo Mountain features high peaks and dense forests. It has a well-preserved pine forest, which is the best ecological place around Beijing.

There are several brooks and springs along the mountain, some in the ravine and some at the foot of the mountain.

Once there was an ancient temple called Hotspring Temple in the Tangzi Ravine. Behind the temple is a hot spring where the water temperature reaches 42 C.

Steep peaks are off to the south, dubbed "flying rain in Haituo" because it's where swift and sudden downpours are liable to happen at any time.

Changeable weather

Haituo Mountain is known for its unpredictable weather, especially during the summer. Some hikers have experienced hailstones while on the mountain.

Most days, though, climbers will see white clouds and the blue sky above. After reaching the peak, the large meadow will reveal a sea of blossoming flowers, including Chinese globeflower and garden burnet. The grassland with wildflowers shines in the sun – a beautiful sight.

At any time, though, dark clouds are

By Zhang Dongya

Haituo Mountain, not yet developed for tourism, is worth exploring for just that reason. Located on the border of Beijing and Hebei Province, it's home to the second highest peak in the area and some great views.

Hikers will be treated to the sight of a meadow full of blossoming flowers near the peak. Several routes lead to the peak, giving visitors plenty of options for seeing the countryside.



liable to shroud the sky, followed by thunder and lightning. A brisk gale might blow, followed by a severe temperature drop and rain. It's important to bring a raincoat up the mountain. The storms never last long – usually just a few minutes – before giving way to sunshine once again.

People have long said that the grassland and meadow looks even better after a quick storm. With the shimmering dew, the wildflowers look even more vibrant. The sky is clean, and the sunshine warm.

Hikers are advised to watch their feet, because the ground might be slippery.

At the peak, one will see a panorama of Yanqing, partly shrouded by a layer of mist.

Recommended itinerary

There are four recommended itineraries to Haituo Mountain, all referring to Little Haituo, which is technically inside Beijing.

The first route starts from Dahaituo Village in Chicheng County. It takes between three and a half to five hours to reach the peak. This is a relatively easy route for those who want to enjoy mountain scenery along the way. There are many brooks along the way with water clean enough to drink.

The second itinerary starts at Yanjiaping. Those with cars can drive to Zhangshanying Village and then head toward Songshan. It will take 40 minutes to drive across the mountain road and reach Yanjiaping. There is a line of cottages around Yanjiaping where you can park. Climb the mountain in the east and you will see a

narrow mountain road that extends to the peak of Little Haituo. It takes about five hours, through pine forests, to reach the peak.

The third route starts in Xidazhuangke Village, a neat little village. The road is steep, but lined with big trees, so hikers don't have to worry about the sun.

The hardest route starts from Pijiu Xi, or Beer Brook. To the west of Longju Villa is Yudushan Scenic Spot, where one will find the start of this route. It's the steepest climb and also the longest. Some veteran hikers want to climb the mountain via this route for the challenge. It takes about eight hours to reach the peak of Little Haituo. There are also many brooks along the way where hikers can replenish their water supply.



Haituo Mountain has a meadow full of blossoming flowers that offers an arcadian feel.

Photos by Wei Yao

Travel information

Getting there: Drive along Badaling Expressway and take Yanqing exit to Yanqing County. Drive along 110 National Road to Zhangshanying and follow the signs. Or take Bus 919 from Deshengmen to Yanqing and transfer to 920 to Songshan Lukou. Then take a 20-minute coach to Xidazhuangke Village. Bus 919 starts at 5:50 am, with the last bus leaving at 7 pm from Xidazhuangke Village. It takes an hour to get to Yanqing (10 yuan).

Tel: 6911 2435

Admission: Free

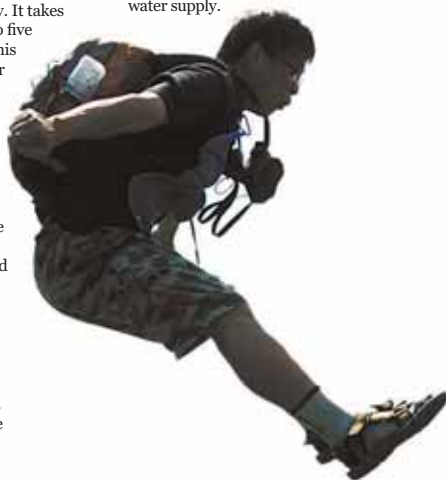
Note: The mountain has not been developed for tourism yet, so there are no facilities or service centers. People should prepare food and water in advance.

Accommodations:

Travelers can pitch a tent on Haituo Mountain or lodge in hotels at the mountain's base. Xidazhuangke Songhai Villa

Tel: 6911 2435

Cost: 80 yuan per day for standard room



A white house in Hangzhou

Two women, bound by friendship, build dream hotel in city known as "Paradise on Earth"

By Annie Wei

Unlike in other parts of Hangzhou, tourists are few and traffic is light at Baileqiao, where Beijing photographer Chen Yan, her friend Cai Yan, a graphic designer in Guangzhou, and two others built their dream house: a six-room boutique hotel called Uhouse.



Photographer Chen Yan and graphic designer Cai Yan



Concrete bathroom



This room on the third floor is made of used wood

Photos by Chen Hetong

many buildings had well-polished concrete floors. But modern workers don't have the necessary skill."

Also, due to restrictions by the city management bureau, they weren't allowed to make sweeping changes to the building's exterior.

A promising future

The Uhouse started accepting guests in August and is already fully booked.

The owners have plans to turn Uhouse into a franchise, but they're worried about it getting copied.

"The design isn't too complicated," Dong said. "But are others willing to devote so much time and effort on it?"

To create Uhouse, everyone chipped in with the skill they're best at: Chen is a photographer, Cai is a visual designer, Dong is an interior designer and worked at the construction site. It was a dream team.

Cai said they invested nearly everything into Uhouse and that it might take two or three years to get the money back.

But "it's not about making money," said Dong, who volunteered his design to fulfill his wife and her friend's dream.

Uhouse

Where: 269 Baileqiao, Linyin Zhi Lu, Xihu Jingqu, Hangzhou City
Tel: 0571-8516 6946



A guest room on the first floor



Uhouse's front door



Leaf-shaped wood plate

"Areas like Baileqiao are hard to find in Hangzhou," Chen said.

The area is striking for its mix of scenery: tall ancient trees along with mountains constantly shrouded in fog along with rivers and temples.

In the morning, the leaves are sprinkled with dew, birds sing in the trees and water laps against the shores as it flows under bridges.

"The water is so clean that local residents make tea with it," said Wei Chao, a Hangzhou resident who runs the apparel brand Choc (lovechoc.cn).

Wei stayed in Uhouse and praised its design for matching its surroundings.

Uhouse is a distinguished white building with three floors, big windows, wood frames and a terrace floor. It is home to, among other things, two large poodles.

Wei checked into a room on the third floor that cost 388 yuan per night. "I was impressed by its half-wood and half-concrete construction," he said, "as well as many details such as designer ceramic wares, quality furniture and utilities."

Although the price was a bit higher than other inns and youth hostels, Uhouse is more affordable than five-star hotels. For example, Amanfayun, 15 minutes away by car, charges 4,225 yuan per night.

"It takes less than 20 yuan to take a cab from Uhouse to West Lake," Chen said. Hangzhou, after all, isn't all that big.

Two girls

A graduate of the China Central Academy of Fine Arts, Chen works as a freelance photographer, primarily with Elle Décor.

The hotel business was never in her mind before she spent a week in Baileqiao with her close friend Cai Yan.

The two met in 2003, and though they

had few chances to hang out because they lived 2,300 kilometers apart, they felt they had a tight friendship.

Both feel the other is "another me in the world," Cai said. "We share a passion for design. We talk a lot on the phone or QQ about our dreams, work and various kinds of ideas ... We always wondered why we were so far apart because we should be doing something together."

"Having not seen each other for a while, we decided to meet in a city between Beijing and Guangzhou - and that was Hangzhou."

After spending a week together in Baileqiao, neither wanted to return to their respective cities.

From workshop to artsy hotel

At first, the two only planned to own a workshop.

"There are a lot of people in the creative industry in Hangzhou," Cai said. "We are both freelancers and hoped to spend two or three months living and working in Hangzhou every year."

But friends did not approve of their idea, saying it was a bad investment to build a workshop in a city they were not familiar with and only live there two or three months every year. Also, for two women making a middle-class income, it would have cost them all their savings.

The two eventually gave up that dream.

"But one day, Chen said something that touched us again," Cai said.

Chen had said: "If we still have dreams, no matter what the result will be, we should try. After all, 2012 (the end of the world) is coming."

Instead of building a workshop that's empty most time of a year, why not build a small hotel that can generate income?

When they were in Hangzhou, they stayed

at a hostel called Yiju. "There are many youth hostels in this area, renovated from local residents' houses, quite cozy and well-accepted by mass customers," Cai said.

However, there was something missing. "With such a beautiful scene, there should be much better and nicer livable buildings - ones affordable to young people like us," Cai said.

"We spent half a year in looking for the right location."

Whenever Cai and Chen could schedule time off from Beijing or Guangzhou, they flew together to Hangzhou.

"At first, we did not know the city well, so we bought flights that arrived at almost the same," Cai said.

Back in their own cities, they kept working on their business plan, which drew the interest of two of their friends who became investors.

Eco-friendly architecture

Chen Yan's husband, Dong Yan, a Beijing architect and interior designer, contributed to Uhouse's design and construction.

He and Chen wanted an eco-friendly and simple design. They chose to build with recycled wood and concrete. The interior was redecorated to make sure each room is spacious and comfortable. They bought quality beds, same as those used in the Westin Hotel, and a Toto bath and toilet.

"We want a big and comfortable bed for our customers that can be shared by three friends who travel together," Dong said.

His experience while traveling with friends was that nights would be spent talking, anyway.

The recycled wood was processed just outside Hangzhou.

"Processing used wood costs twice as much as new wood," Chen said. But used wood has memories, and they did not want to feel like they were cutting down new trees.

Still, Dong was not completely satisfied with the construction result, such as the concrete floor. "Ten to 15 years ago,

Hotel

Chef's garden at Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing



Shangri-La Hotel is growing fresh mint, lavender, lemon balm, basil, purple, striped and heirloom tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, corn, rosemary, green beans, coriander, curly parsley, thyme and smiling sunflowers in its new chef's garden.

The organic vegetable garden was first planted to show the hotel's passion for products linked to its star chefs. Many of the chefs said they tended similar gardens with their parents each year as children, growing fresh produce for home meals and special gatherings.

The chef's garden is watered regularly and fed with natural fertilizer. The eggplants are almost ready for harvest, and are round and have a very dark skin color. Come join Shangri-La for the upcoming harvest!

Mooncakes for each element



The ancient Mid-Autumn Festival continues to be one of China's most popular.

The event, celebrated on the 15th of the 8th lunar month – a full moon – is a time for family reunions, sumptuous meals and mooncakes. To celebrate, Swissotel Beijing has created an assortment of mooncakes to cater to various tastes.

This year's package dips into Chinese tradition with a theme based on the five elements: metal, wood, water, fire and earth. The cakes come in traditional flavors such as red lotus seed with egg yolk, mixed nuts with ham, fragrant date paste, red bean paste, black sesame paste and jujube and green tea paste.

Where: Swissotel Beijing, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Chaoyang District

Cost: Metal box of 6 mooncakes, 228 yuan; wood box of 6 mooncakes, 158 yuan; water box of 6 mooncakes, 258 yuan; fire box of 8 mooncakes, 158 yuan; Earth box of 6 moon cakes, 138 yuan.

Tel: Call Nathan Ma to place an order at 6553 2288 ext. 2148 or 13810229471

Dining

Swissotel celebrates Switzerland's National Day

Swissotel Beijing celebrated Switzerland's 720th National Day on August 1 with an amazing Swiss Night.

The event featured a spectacular buffet dinner with two gourmet delights: fine cheese and Swiss signature chocolates. Café Swiss served Raclette, a Swiss signature dish, chocolate desserts and traditional Swiss cheese fondue.

Greeting the guests were Swiss flags, cows, pins, fragrances and hospitality, as well as a huge Swiss Carrot Cake in the lobby served to guests as a slice of Swiss hospitality with Swissotel's precision.

Throughout the month, the hotel's Café Swiss and The Flow Lounge & Bar are serving a special Toblerone Cheesecake priced 50 yuan. As a special Swiss wine promotion, guests at The Flow Lounge & Bar can receive a Swiss Mezze Platter for each bottle served: red wines are priced 500 yuan and whites 400 yuan.

Swissotel is committed to treating its guests the way they want to be treated. It aims to impress its guests with Swiss heritage and a passion for perfection.

Where: Swissotel Beijing, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei



Dajie, Chaoyang District

Cost: All prices subject to a 15 percent gratuity fee

Tel: 6553 2288

Event

Abandoned Boudoir brings Australian art and design to Beijing

In collaboration with Asialink, Opposite House and the Australian Embassy, Red Gate Gallery is presenting Abandoned Boudoir, an Australian art and design exhibition, on August 10.

Devised as a pop-up display for select international art and design festivals, the Abandoned Boudoir builds on the success of Asialink's ongoing touring program that promotes intercultural understanding between Australia and the countries of Asia.

True to its name, Abandoned Boudoir uses a hotel bedroom as an intimate exhibition space. Existing hotel art, bed linen, objects, furniture and lighting are removed and replaced by Australian crafted objects. During the display, the installation will undergo subtle changes to reflect the moods of its "inhabitant," functioning as a living exhibition for visitors to inspect.

"The exhibition references themes such as sex, glamour, mystique, displacement and surveillance. The objects themselves have all been created by Australian designers but are global in their approach and show no signs of their origin," says curator Marisia Lukaszewski of Aesthetic Alliance.

Viewers are forced to think about the objects: Why are they significant to the inhabitant? What do they say about the inhabitant? How do they compare with other design objects shown to the wider Beijing public outside the hotel?

The exhibition is supported by Opposite House Hotel, Asialink and the Australian Embassy Beijing. The Asialink Visual Arts Touring Exhibition Program is also supported by the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

When: 1-6:30 pm daily, August 10-19. Tours start every half hour. Book your tour and meet your guide in the Opposite House lobby.

Aviation

British Airways ranks UK, European getaways for Chinese travelers

According to British Airways' data, Edinburgh and Rome topped the list of Chinese travelers' UK and European destinations during the last year.

The top five UK destinations as ranked by the number of Chinese passengers were Edinburgh, Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow and Aberdeen, while the five most popular European destinations were Rome, Paris, Geneva, Barcelona and Zurich.

While London was the top destination for British Airways passengers departing from China, it was excluded from the rankings because all other UK destinations connect through the city. Transfers to and from Heathrow Terminal 5 – exclusively for British Airways travelers – for other UK and European destinations are both convenient and time saving, the company said.

"These rankings show the diverse range of attractions found in the UK and Europe for Chinese travelers, such as business and education opportunities, cultural visits, shopping or holidays," said Kevin McQuillan, British Airways' regional general manager for East Asia.

"It is worth noting that British Airways boasts one of the most extensive networks in the UK and Europe, with 65 destinations across the continent. This unrivaled network, together with the state-of-the-art gateway at Terminal 5 Heathrow, makes it the airline of choice for Chinese travelers."

(By Jackie Zhang)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Li Zhixin at lizhixin@ynet.com.

A classic tale retold

By Wei Xi

Last Saturday, on Chinese Valentine's Day – or Qixi – 35-year-old engineer Yang took his Australian girlfriend, Jessie, to a romantic hutong restaurant near Houhai with the intent of proposing to her.

Several days before, however, they had a fight.

The topic was relocation. Yang and Jessie met three years ago and eventually decided they would move to Australia together, but Yang has never been able to pick up English, no matter how hard Jessie tries to teach him.

Jessie has been pushing him harder recently as she prepares his documents to apply for an Australian visa.

The pressure from his girlfriend and from his work has caused Yang to freak out. One day after work, amid Jessie's nagging to practice English, he blew up. "I'm not going to Australia!" he shouted.

Yang, valuing face, had yet to apologize. It wasn't until Friday, when a colleague reminded him that Qixi was the next day, that Yang decided to quit being so stubborn. He was going to do something special.

At the restaurant on Saturday, he looked at Jessie's expressionless face and said, "I'm sorry, honey. I apologize for what I said the other day. I know you've pushed me for my own good and I realize what I said hurt you a lot."

Jessie kept quiet and did not immediately respond.

But Yang knew how to please her.

"These days I have worked so hard on my English that I even prepared an English poem especially for you."

Clearing his throat and taking out a draft, Yang began to read.

"O my love's like a red, red rose, that's newly sprung in June," he said, taking out a batch of red roses and handing them to Jessie.

"O my love's like the melody, that's sweetly played in tune," he continued, taking out a toy violin and pretending to play.

Then, Yang got up on his chair and intoned, "We met in early May, and that must be set by the old man under the moon."



"I do not want to be the bull man who has to wait to see the weaver girl only once a year. So Jessie, please marry with me and let's go to Australia together!"

Jessie looked embarrassed. She whispered, realizing everyone was looking at them, "Hey, what are you doing? Get down from there."

"No, I will not get down until you agree to marry me."

"Yes, I said yes," Jessie said shyly, letting Yang put a diamond ring on her finger.

When Jessie told me this story on Monday, I laughed. "He's a romantic guy and worth getting married to," I said.

"But who is the old man under the moon?" she asked.

"Well, the old man under the moon is a Chinese god who is in charge of the romance of men and women," I said.

"Every time the old man thinks a couple is suitable to be together, he ties the two with a red string. So, if we say a couple's meeting was set by this old man, we mean they are destined to be together."

"Got it. But who are the bull man and weaving girl?"

"Bull man?" I was confused at first. Then I realized the problem. "I think he means the cowherd and the weaver. In a Chinese fable, they were a couple separated by the goddess of heaven. They could only meet once a year, on the seventh evening of the seventh month on the Chinese lunar calendar – called Qixi."

"That's sad," Jessie said.

"Yes," I agreed. "And that's what he meant: he couldn't bear to only see you once a year."

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week

1. Get closer a hutong dream house.

Professor Zhu Shida (ZSD): When "to get" means to arrive at a place, it is an intransitive verb. You cannot say: He got Beijing yesterday. You have to say: He got to Beijing yesterday. In the case of "being close," you cannot say: It is close a hutong dream house. You have to say: It is close to a hutong dream house. So, in both cases, you need to have the "to" to make it a perfect sentence. That is: Get closer to a hutong dream house.

Terry-Boyd Zhang (TBZ): In English, these little words, such as at, to, in, can only be learned through hours and hours of memorization. At least for most people, you need to put some effort into this. However, if you are reading, listening and speaking English, you will find that you will start to "feel" these words automatically, and it will take the pressure off strict memorization. Try watching movies and reading the subtitles. English doesn't have to be all hard work!

2. A recent study finds that China ranked last with fewest paid vacation days.

ZSD: There is a problem with the consistency of tense. Since you say "a recent study" and you use the present tense for the main verb, why should you use the past tense in the clause? No reason. What's more, China's ranking is necessarily something studied recently. So, there is every reason to use the present tense too in the subordinate clause and it is wrong to use the past tense. So, the right way to say it is: A recent study finds that China ranks last with fewest paid vacation days.

TBZ: I agree, and I think that the Professor has explained it quite well. Because it is a recent study, probably the conditions studied (number of vacation days) is still continuing, so you should use the present. This is true in other cases, such as discussing a person's philosophy (though the philosopher may or may not already be dead).

3. That's why when 1.3 billion people go on holiday at the same time, most chose to stay with the family.

ZSD: This is another example of tense consistency. The verb "go on" is not consistent with the verb "chose." As you are talking about a general rule, you use the present tense. So, the right way to say it should be: That's why when 1.3 billion people go on holiday at the same time, most choose to stay with the family. When we are writing, we have to be very clear-headed about the matter of time and its sequence. So small a matter may spoil your essay.

TBZ: Definitely! You need to proofread carefully and make sure your verb tenses are in agreement. Note, though, that "in agreement" does not necessarily mean "the same." Do some review on verbs and clauses to ensure accuracy!

4. The mud football world championship

ZSD: The other day I had an interesting discussion with one of my friends. I think it is wrong to say "world championship." It should be "world championships." He argued that both are right. As we know, "championship" means the position of the champion, first place. Championships is the games of a sport, for instance, the World Tennis Championships; you would never say, the World Tennis Championship. We say, He won the championship at the World Tennis Championships. Don't get confused.

TBZ: Sorry! On this one I agree with the Professor's friend. Perhaps it depends on the official name on the game (or games)? But I'm not sports-minded either – for instance, the winner of figure skating is often prearranged in advance. (Just kidding.)

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to lizhixin@ynet.com together with your name and address.

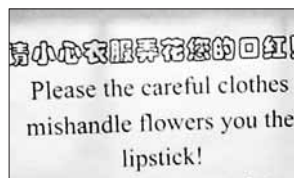
Careful clothes flower lipstick

By Terry-Boyd Zhang

This translation seems to have been an amateur one that does not really say what it needs to say. I thought it was Google Translate, but it isn't. If it was, it would be: "Please take care of you clothes get lipstick." Huh?

Luckily for us, the characters are all fairly basic. The first character is *qing* (please), which we have seen before. Just a reminder that most Chinese characters are made up of two parts; the part on the right of "please" lends the character its pronunciation, but in itself actually means green or blue, like clear water in a Canadian mountain lake.

The second character is *xiao* (small) and the third is *xin* (heart). These



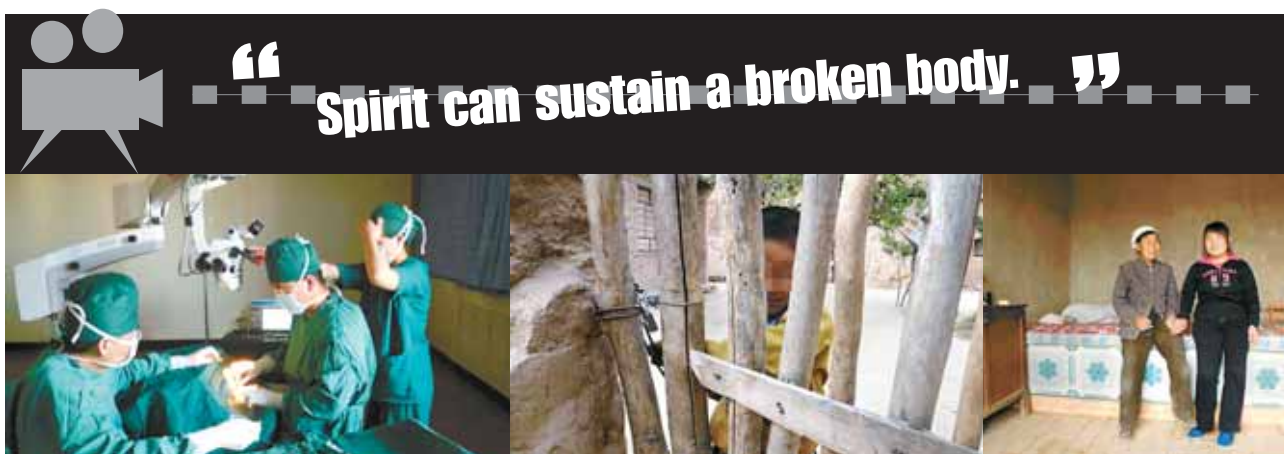
together, *xiaoxin*, mean "careful." You can say this before (or after) the friend you are walking with trips and falls into an uncovered manhole. The next two characters are *yifu* and mean "clothes." So far not bad.

Here's where it gets tricky. The next character is *nong* and means many things, such as "to use impro-

perly." However, I think in this case, it should simply be "make, get." Flowers is the next character, *hua*. See the "grass" radical at the top, which is often found in characters relating to plants. Except *hua* can also mean "pattern" or, in this case, a "print, spot" – we will see why in a minute.

The fourth from last character is the polite form of "you" (*nin*, "you" at the top and "heart" at the bottom), and added with the next character (*de*), turns into a possessive – "your." Finally, the last two characters are *kou* ("mouth") and *hong* ("red"), which together mean "lipstick."

In other words, ladies (and gents), when you try on clothes, be careful not to smear your lipstick on them.



“ Spirit can sustain a broken body. ”

Sticking to a dream

By Wei Xi

To struggle against disease and to fight to fulfill dreams are things all people experience.

In that sense, the problems of China's poorest are the problems of all mankind.

Healthcare and education, the basic welfare enjoyed by China's city dwellers, are essentially inaccessible in the country's remote west.

Many villagers escape their difficult lives by becoming migrant workers or studying to enter a big city school.

But Zhang Xubin's path was different.

After he achieved success in his medical career, he chose to return to his hometown: the remote Mengyuan Village in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

He opened a mobile, non-profit eye clinic and provided medical treatment and consultation to poor rural patients. However, the work put himself and his family in dire financial straits, and the uncertainty of their future was very troubling to his wife.

"We sold our last two homes to support his work. Every year we have to move," she said.

But her tears did not deter Zhang from his goal of restoring vision to the poor. "It is a wonderful feeling. I am gradually having higher expectations of what I can do for others," he said.

Zhang is one person highlighted in Carol Liu's new documentary *Resorting to Light*, which focuses on a small village in the heart of Ningxia, one of China's poorest regions that has been left behind by the race to build up the coast.

The documentary also interviews Liu Rongrong, a woman in her early 20s, Yuan Guihua, a 70-year-old rural woman, and Li Juncheng, a blind teenager.

One of Liu Rongrong's feet was infected by a debilitating bone infection as an infant. It left her disabled and unable to assist her family in the fields, so she spent more time in school to study and train to fulfill her dream of becoming an artist.

"You have to face reality, but hope is still essential," Liu said.

Yuan, Liu's grandmother, had lived

in a cave dwelling for more than 60 years. She had bound feet and lost her sight to cataracts. However, she was still doing farm work in the fields and was deeply concerned about her granddaughter's future.

"My life was full of hardship, but the only choice was to go on," she said.

Li Juncheng's life was even harder. The outgoing boy was blinded when improperly treated for an illness during infancy. The local school rejected his enrollment after learning of his condition, and his parents opted to lock him up alone in their courtyard. He spent his days indoors unable to do anything but play with sand and his water bottle.

"I want to do something. I would love to drive a car, but I cannot see anything. Even so, I would still want to be a driver," he said.

Born in the US, Carol Liu rarely saw anything that gave her a glimpse of rural peasant life. "All the movies about the countryside that I watched in the US stunk of Orientalism. They were so far removed that you could hardly empathize with people," Liu said.

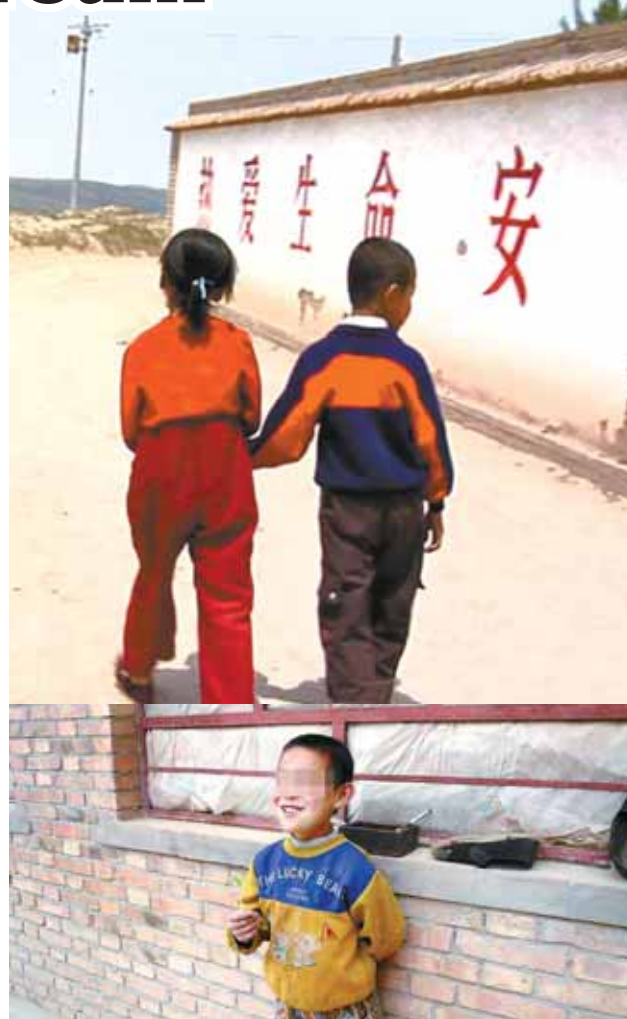
The movies were too caught up in the customs and cultures of another nation, and in reinforcing stereotypes.

Liu decided to learn about rural life on her own.

"The goal of a documentary is to make the audience empathize with the people in the movie," Liu said. "And things like disability, disease and a lack of access to education and welfare are human concerns – not the problems of one remote group of people."

With the help of China Welfare Fund for the Handicapped, Liu traveled to many villages in Ningxia and met many doctors and patients.

Many doctors there were very dedicated to their job, but Liu said she finally



The blind Li Juncheng dreams of driving a car.

Photos provided by Carol Liu

chose Zhang because he was special.

"He ran his own clinic and was continuously trying to improve his medical knowledge," she said.

Liu also found while shooting that disabled children were being denied access to education in Ningxia, where the only special needs school is located in Yinchuan: the capital.

"That school only takes 200 students each year, and most of them come from comparatively wealthy families. The education costs at the school are very expensive," Liu said.

In the countryside, the disabled are treated as freaks.

"Local residents regard disability as shameful, so families lock them away to prevent others from seeing them," Liu said.

While Liu and Scott Rozelle, director of a rural education program, are funding Li Juncheng's work with professors at Northwest University, no amount of money can compensate for the region's absence of infrastructure.